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President Barack Obama announces executive actions on U.S. immigration policy during a television address at the White House in Washington, Nov. 20, 2014. Choosing confrontation over conciliation, Obama asserted the powers of the Oval Office and dared members of next year's Republican-controlled Congress to reverse his actions on behalf of millions of immigrants.

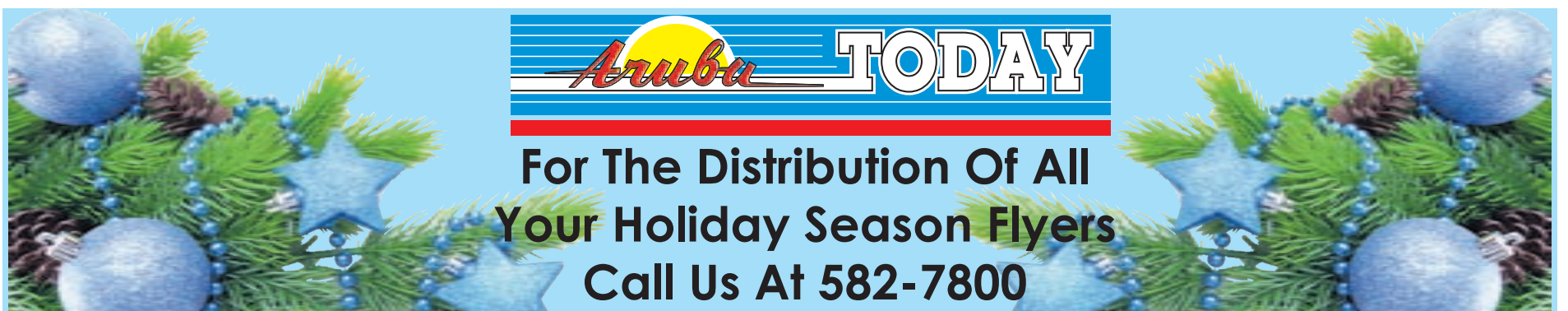
(Jim Bourg/Pool via The New York Times)

## Obama, Daring Congress, Moves On Immigration

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# Thanksgiving getaway: 46.3 million to hit the road

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Business Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The good news for Thanksgiving travelers: the price of gas is at five-year lows. The bad news: a lot more people will be on the road. During the long holiday weekend, 46.3 million Americans are expected to go 50 miles or more from home, the highest number since 2007, according to travel agency and car lobbying group AAA. That would be a 4.2 percent increase over last year.

While promising for the travel industry, the figure is still 8.5 percent short of the 50.6 million high point reached in 2007, just before the recession.

Like on every other holiday, the overwhelming majority of travelers — almost 90 percent — will be driving. The numbers on the gas station signs will be much kinder this year. AAA says the average retail price for gasoline is \$2.85 per gallon, 43 cents cheaper than Thanksgiving Day last year.



**FILE** - In this Nov. 26, 2013 file photo, travelers walk under a sign reading "Happy Thanksgiving" at LaGuardia Airport in New York. There will be 12.3 million roundtrip passengers, globally, on U.S. airlines during the 2014 holiday travel period, up 1.5 percent from 2013, according to the industry's lobbying group, Airlines for America.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

With the average car getting 18.5 miles per gallon, that means a family driving 300 miles will save \$6.97 in fuel this holiday.

Those flying won't be so lucky.

Average airfares are

\$307.52, up 1.1 from last year, according to the Airlines Reporting Corp., which processes ticket transactions for airlines and travel agencies. That figure doesn't include an average of \$51 in additional

taxes and fees that passengers pay.

There will be 12.3 million roundtrip passengers, globally, on U.S. airlines during the holiday travel period, up 1.5 percent from last year, according to the in-

dustry's lobbying group, Airlines for America. (AAA's forecast shows fewer numbers of fliers because it looks at a five-day period while the airline group looks at the 12 days surrounding Thanksgiving.)

Those travelers staying at hotels will also spend more than last year. The average room rate so far this year is \$115.85, up 4.6 percent from the same prior last year, according to travel research firm STR.

If you're among the Thanksgiving travelers driving to your destination, Wednesday's getaway traffic produces the gnarliest snarls from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas, according to analysis of the roads in 21 major U.S. cities by Google Inc. The Internet company drew its conclusions by following the locations of smartphones that used its Android operating system and popular mapping service during the week of Thanksgiving in 2012 and last year.

For those driving on Thanksgiving day, the most congestion crops up from noon to 2 p.m., according to Google.

The worst time to drive back home typically is the Saturday after Thanksgiving when Google concluded the average traffic is about 40 percent higher than on the Sunday after the holiday. Pittsburgh was the city among the 21 studied by Google where the traffic was slightly heavier on the Sunday after Thanksgiving than on the Saturday.

Last year's biggest Thanksgiving-week traffic spikes occurred in Philadelphia, Austin, Texas, Washington D.C. and Dallas, according to Google. Denver, Boston, Providence, Rhode Island and Seattle registered the smallest changes in traffic. Even if you aren't leaving of town, expect long lines when stocking up on food and drink on the day before Thanksgiving. Google says the most searched categories on its mapping service during the past two years have been "ham shop," "pie shop" and "liquor store."

## Roofs collapse under snow in western New York

CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)**

— Roofs creaked and collapsed and homeowners toiled to clear waist-high snow drifts atop their houses Thursday as another storm continued to bury Buffalo and western New York state, which remained paralyzed by the historic snowfall.

Even for the Buffalo area — one of America's snowiest places — the snowfall was historic, as the three-day total neared 8 feet (2.4 meters), the amount the region typically gets over an entire year. Some areas got close to 3 feet (0.9 meters) of new snow by Thursday afternoon. The storms were blamed for at least 10 deaths in western New York, mostly from exposure and heart attacks, including several people who were shoveling snow.

Things could quickly get worse for the region on Lake Erie: Rain and tem-

peratures as high as 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15.5 Celsius) were forecast over the

off slippery, car-clogged roads in while crews tried to dig out.



**A West Seneca Highway Department snowplow drives along a street on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, in West Seneca, N.Y. A new blast of lake-effect snow pounded Buffalo for a third day piling more misery on a city already buried by an epic, deadly snowfall that could leave some areas with nearly 8 feet of snow on the ground when it's all done.**

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

weekend, raising the specter of flooding and an even heavier load on roofs.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo begged drivers to stay

With roads impassable, driving bans in effect and the Buffalo Bills' football stadium buried in snow, the NFL made the rare decision

to move Sunday's game to another location, still to be determined. Earlier in the day, Cuomo said holding the game would jeopardize public safety.

More than 50 people were evacuated from several mobile home parks because roofs were buckling. In one town authorities said more than a dozen structures collapsed, as did a metal warehouse operated by a Christmas decorations company.

Local media reported that about 180 residents of an assisted living facility were evacuated after staff members noticed the ceiling bulging under the weight of the snow.

Homeowners and store employees around the region climbed onto roofs to shovel off the snow and reduce the danger.

National Guardsmen drove nurses to work their hospital shifts. State police helped elderly residents trapped in their homes.



## Obama, daring Congress, moves on immigration

MICHAEL D. SHEAR

© 2014 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama chose confrontation over conciliation Thursday as he asserted the powers of the Oval Office to reshape the nation's immigration system and dared members of next year's Republican-controlled Congress to reverse his actions on behalf of millions of immigrants.

In an address to the nation from the East Room of the White House, Obama displayed years of frustration with congressional gridlock and a desire to frame the last years of his presidency with far-reaching executive actions. The president's directive will shield up to 5 million people from deportation and allow many to work legally, but will not give them a path to citizenship.

"The actions I'm taking are not only lawful, they're the kinds of actions taken by every single Republican president and every Democratic president for the past half-century," Obama said. "To those members of Congress who question my authority to make our immigration system work better, or question the wisdom of me acting where Congress has failed, I have one answer: Pass a bill."

Obama intends to underscore the schism between the parties on the issue of immigration during a campaign-like rally on Friday at a high school in Las Vegas, where Hispanics are a powerful and growing voting bloc.

The trip is part of a White

House strategy to try to convince Americans in the next weeks and months that the president's actions are legal and right. Immigration advocates plan to use that time to push for even more while Republicans are devising ways to

Obama's actions will sharpen the focus of government enforcement on criminals and foreigners who pose security threats, vastly reducing the specter that many immigrants would be detained by federal agents. High-tech

work legally in the country. They must pass background checks and pay taxes, but they will get Social Security cards, officials said.

An additional 1 million people will get protection from deportation through other parts of the president's

Even as Republican lawyers analyzed what the White House said was the legal basis of Obama's actions, it remained unclear how they might undo them. The agency that will carry out most of the president's executive actions, Citizenship and Immigration Services, is funded with application fees, and does not rely on a budget vote in Congress to keep operating.

But accusations of a presidential abuse of power appear to have gained some traction in recent days, as a Wall Street Journal/NBC poll found just 38 percent support for Obama's executive actions even as there is broad support for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. In the poll, 48 percent said they oppose Obama's actions. Even a few Democrats have expressed concern about the propriety of the president's actions.

Critics of the president's actions described them in equally sweeping terms.

"President Obama today told millions of people, 'If you broke our laws to enter this country, we will not prosecute you, we will not deport you.'" said Jenny Beth Martin, the president of the Tea Party Patriots. "This is a constitutional republic, not a banana republic. It's time we all started acting like it."

House Speaker John A. Boehner echoed that theme in a video message before the president's speech. "The president has said before that 'he's not king' and he's 'not an emperor,' but he's sure acting like one," Boehner said. □



Rosa Lozano, from Washington, left, translates the speech into Spanish as Lita Trejo, from El Salvador, and Texas Democratic State Rep. Ramon Romero, listen to President Obama's speech on a tablet, during a demonstration in front of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. President Barack Obama announced executive actions on immigration during a nationally televised address.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

defy the president and exercise their new authority. Conservative lawmakers accused the president of a gross abuse of authority and promised a legislative fight when they take full control of Congress next year. But even before Obama's speech, Republicans appeared divided about how to stop him and unsure about how to express their anger without severely damaging their standing with Latinos.

workers will have an easier time coming to the United States, and security on the border will be increased. The centerpiece of the president's announcement is a new program for undocumented people who are the parents of U.S. citizens. Most of those people - estimated by officials to number slightly more than 4 million - would be eligible for a new legal status that would defer their deportations and allow them to

plan.

"If President Obama acts in defiance of the people and imposes his will on the country, Congress will act," said Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who will become Senate majority leader in January. "We're considering a variety of options. But make no mistake. When the newly elected representatives of the people take their seats, they will act."





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## FSU gunman wounds 3, then is killed by police

ASHLEY SOUTHALL  
TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

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The gunman who shot three people at a library on Florida State University's main campus in Tallahassee early Thursday was an alumnus who believed the government was watching him, and he detailed his fears in a written journal and videos, the authorities said.

The suspect, whom the police identified as Myron May, 31, reloaded his gun at least once before he was killed by the police during an exchange of gunfire outside Strozier Library, near the center of campus, the authorities said during an afternoon news conference.

The Tallahassee police chief, Michael DeLeo, said May kept a written journal and made videos expressing his fear of being watched by the government and his desire to bring attention to the issue. "Based on our initial review of the documents and his videos and his postings, it's clear that Mr. May's sense of being and place in our community was not what most people would refer to as a normal," DeLeo told



Florida State University deputy chief Major James Russell talks with the media as police investigate a shooting outside the Strozier library on the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee, Fla. Thursday Nov 20, 2014. The gunman was shot and killed by police officers according to Tallahassee Police spokesman Dave Northway.

(AP Photo/Mark Wallheiser)

reporters.

"He had a sense of crisis, and he was searching for something."

One person was in critical condition and one was in good condition at a local hospital, the authorities said, while the third was treated and released.

May graduated from Flor-

ida State in 2005 and returned to the area three weeks ago after attending law school in Texas and practicing law there and in New Mexico, DeLeo said. He had no criminal record with the Tallahassee Police Department or the Leon County Sheriff's Office, the police chief said.

DeLeo said investigators were trying to determine why May, who acted alone, pulled out a gun and opened fire after midnight inside the library, sending hundreds of bystanders fleeing or hiding among shelves of books. The police chief credited security measures that allow only students and staff to enter the library with preventing more bloodshed. May was carrying a .380-caliber handgun and additional ammunition in his pockets, but he left the library after he was unable to make it past the security barriers, DeLeo said.

Florida State canceled classes Thursday, though the campus remained open. Classes were expected to resume Friday. "We still have a lot of questions that are unanswered," Gov. Rick Scott said at a news conference

Thursday morning. "The police investigation will answer many of the questions we are asking today - but just like any tragedy, the ultimate question of why will never have an answer that satisfies those whose loved ones have been injured or killed."

Florida State's president, John Thrasher, said the university had increased campus security Thursday and that grief counselors were available to faculty, staff and students.

The shooting occurred Thursday about 12:30 a.m. The campus police received a call about a man brandishing a gun at the library, where students were studying for exams.

As officers responded, they received word that someone had been shot, Thrasher said in a statement.

Tallahassee and university police officers spotted May near the entrance to Strozier Library and told him to drop his weapon, said David Northway, a spokesman for the Tallahassee Police Department. Instead, May shot at the officers, prompting the police to return fire.

Daniel Morales, a 19-year-old freshman from Fort Pierce, Florida, who was in the library during the shooting, told The Associated Press that when he heard someone say, "Somebody's got a gun," I thought he was joking." After realizing there actually was a gunman in the library, Morales said, he and others ran to a room on the library's second floor and barricaded a door with desks.

Allison Kope, a freshman from Cocoa Beach, Florida, said she was on the library's first floor when the shooting began. □

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# Union: Ferguson officer does not expect charges



Steven King, left, fills out paperwork before selling a handgun to first-time gun owner Dave Benne at Metro Shooting Supplies, in Bridgeton, Mo. King says he's sold two to three times more weapons in recent weeks than normal as a grand jury decides whether to indict Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri  
(AP) —

The white suburban St. Louis police officer who fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old does not expect to face criminal charges from a Missouri grand jury that has been investigating the case for several months, a police union official said Thursday. Jeff Roorda, business manager for the St. Louis Police Officers' Association, said he met Thursday with the police officer, Darren Wilson, who has remained secluded from the public

eye since the Aug. 9 shooting that sparked tense and occasionally violent protests. The killing also reignited a debate over how police treat young black men as it drew attention to racial tensions in the United States. Wilson, who was placed on paid administrative leave following the shooting, has been under a lot of pressure and stress but seems confident in the outcome of the grand jury investigation, Roorda said. "It's fair to say that neither he nor his defense team expect an indictment,"

Roorda said. The 12-person St. Louis County grand jury has been hearing evidence in the case as the panel weighs whether to indict Wilson, who could face varying degrees of charges. A decision could come soon, though authorities have not publicized any specific date for an announcement. Roorda said St. Louis city police have been notified that they are switching to 12-hour shifts starting Saturday, a preparation for a potential uptick in protests.

The St. Louis County Police Department has not yet decided whether to switch to longer work shifts, spokesman Brian Schellman said.

For weeks, local and state police have been preparing for a grand jury announcement in anticipation that it will result in renewed protests. Earlier this week, Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard to help with security.

Authorities have said Wilson shot Brown, who was unarmed, following some sort of physical confrontation that occurred after Wilson told Brown and a friend to stop walking down the center of a street.

Wilson told authorities that the shooting happened after Brown struggled with him for his gun, according to reports by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York Times that cited unnamed sources. But some witnesses have said Brown had his arms raised — as if to surrender — when the fatal shot was fired.

Wilson attorney Neil Bruntrager, who also attended Thursday's meeting, said there was no specific discussion of expectations.

"We have absolutely no idea — no more than anyone else — what may or may not happen," he said. "The only expectation that we would have is that the grand jury would be thorough and fair."

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## Takata exec testifies about air bags in Senate hearing

**AARON M. KESSLER**

© 2014 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - The problems of exploding air bags made by the Japanese supplier Takata took center stage Thursday as a Senate committee convened an unusual lame-duck hearing.

In tense exchanges, the panel questioned representatives of Takata, Honda and Chrysler about why the problem, which has been linked to at least five deaths, took years to be addressed and why it has yet to be solved.

Repeatedly, senators received halting answers to questions about Takata's responsibility for deaths associated with the defective air bags and the company's willingness to order

an independent investigation.

More than 14 million vehicles from 11 automakers have been recalled to replace the faulty air bags, which have inflators that can break apart, spraying metal shards at passengers.

"Does Takata take full responsibility for this defect?" Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., asked Hiroshi Shimizu, Takata's senior vice president for global quality assurance, referring to the five deaths linked to the air bags.

After conferring with his interpreter and asking for clarification about which incidents the senator was referring to, Shimizu said the accidents were anomalies, "so in that sense, yes." Earlier, Shimizu said the



**Hiroshi Shimizu, one of Takata's senior executives from Japan, testifies before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Nov. 20, 2014. The problems of exploding airbags made by the Japanese supplier took center stage Thursday morning, as the committee convened an unusual lame-duck hearing.**

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)



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company was "deeply sorry" and "anguished about each of the reported instances in which a Takata air bag has not performed as designed, and a driver or passenger has suffered personal injuries or death." Senators were particularly concerned that some of the recalls have been limited to certain regions. In June, about 900,000 vehicles from nine automakers were recalled in Florida, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, areas that federal regulators said had high humidity that could make the air bags' propellant less stable. Since then, Honda has expanded the recall to include more states and millions more vehicles.

On Tuesday, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration called on automakers to expand the recall nationwide.

In a sharp exchange with Sen. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., Shimizu struggled to answer the question of

whether Takata supported the safety agency's call.

"It is hard for me to answer yes or no," Shimizu said.

"It is not hard for you to answer yes or no," Markey said, cutting him off.

In the end, when the Takata executive did not provide a clear response, Markey said, "I'm going to take that as a no."

A Honda executive also had trouble answering a yes-or-no question. When Heller asked whether his 18-year-old daughter would be safe driving her 2007 Honda Civic, the executive, Rick Schostek, sat silent for a considerable period. He then said that Honda had "several different analyses of what the problems are with these air bags" before eventually saying, "There is a risk."

Pressed further by Heller, Schostek said that if the 2007 Civic had not been subject to a recall, then Honda believed it was "safe for the driver."

The exchange prompted

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., who was presiding over the hearing, to interject.

"Those pauses," he said, "were painful." He then told Heller, "You'd better tell your daughter not to drive south in her Honda." Stephanie Erdman, of Des Moines, Florida, who lost sight in her right eye when the air bag in her 2002 Honda Civic ruptured in 2013, opened the hearing by telling lawmakers about the struggles she had.

"I know that I have physical scars from my tragedy," she said. "But the people who care about me have scars, too. They are just the kind you cannot see."

After testifying, Erdman, an Air Force officer, found herself surrounded by dozens of reporters and television cameras in the hallway outside the hearing room. She said that while she took comfort the Takata air bag issue "is finally getting the recognition it deserves," the executives' testimony left her less than satisfied. □



## US Financial Front:

# American home sales make brisk gains in October

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans bought homes in October at the brisk pace this year, a sign that the sluggish housing market is turning around.

Sales of existing homes rose 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of

ed from the recession, the opportunity has eroded for investors to profit from buying homes at steep discounts.

Just 4 percent of the single-family houses sold in the third-quarter were flipped by investors, who frequently bought distressed properties on the

historically accounts for 40 percent of sales.

The time on the market is

also steadily increasing. It took 63 days on average to sell a home last month

versus 44 days in June during the height of the summer buying season. □



A really sign hangs in front of a home for sale in Los Angeles. The National Association of Realtors reported on sales of existing homes in October on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Nick Ut)

5.26 million last month, the National Association of Realtors said Thursday. That's up from a revised pace of 5.18 million in September. October marked the first month in 2014 when sales increased compared to a year ago, registering a 2.5 percent gain.

Still, the Realtors project that 2014 sales will fall below 2013 levels.

"Continued gains in existing home sales are going to be difficult," said Ted Wieseman, an analyst at Morgan Stanley.

Home sales slumped through much of 2014 after a three-year rally in the wake of the recession and the implosion of the housing market. Harsh winter weather crippled sales at the beginning of 2014, just as tight credit, rising home prices and essentially flat incomes increasingly limited the number of buyers who could afford a home. At the same time, investors are backing off properties to either rent out or renovate and resell.

Over the past 12 months, the share of homes being bought by investors has slipped to 15 percent from 19 percent, according to the Realtors. As the real estate market has mend-

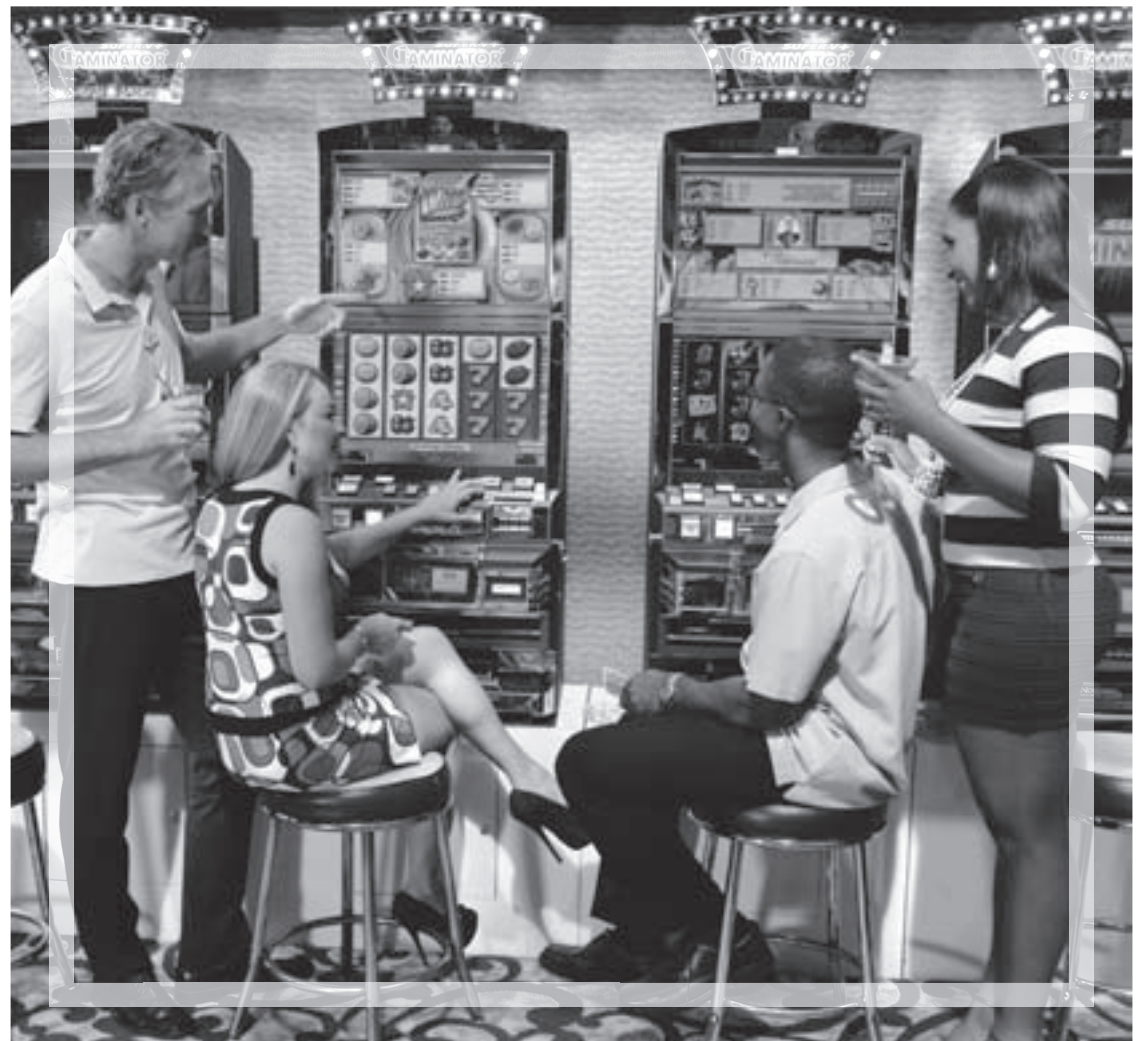
ed from the recession, the opportunity has eroded for investors to profit from buying homes at steep discounts. Flipping accounted for 5.6 percent of sales during the same period in 2013. Its share nearly reached 10 percent in 2012.

Not counting renovation costs and other expenses, investors made on average a 36 percent return, \$75,900 on each home they flipped. That profit margin fell from 37 percent last year. But unlike recent years when flippers bought at a discount and sold the homes at a discount compared with the broader market, sales are now at a 6 percent premium, suggesting that their repairs are more extensive than in the past.

"The flippers aren't just slapping on a fresh coat of paint and rolling out new carpets," said Daren Blomquist, vice president at RealtyTrac.

Median home prices rose 5.5 percent over the past 12 months to \$208,300, according to the October sales report.

First-time buyers have yet to return to the market, representing just 29 percent of sales last month. This group



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**US Finance Extra**

# American unemployment aid applications fall to 291k

**C. S. RUGABER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of people applying for U.S. unemployment benefits declined slightly last week, suggesting that job gains should remain solid.

Weekly applications for jobless aid fell 2,000 to a seasonally adjusted 291,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. The four-week average, a less

volatile measure, rose 1,750 to 287,500.

Employers are laying off fewer workers and have stepped up hiring this year. The weekly applications are a proxy for layoffs, and have fallen 16 percent in the past 12 months.

They are close to the lowest levels since 2000, a sign companies are more confident in the economy and willing to hold onto their staffs.

"These job stats continue to look good," said Jennifer Lee, an economist with BMO Capital Markets.

The number of people receiving aid has also fallen steadily, and now stands at 2.33 million, the lowest since December 2000. Yet there are still 9 million people unemployed.

Almost one-third have been out of work for six months or longer and are no longer eligible for unemployment

benefits. And many others out of work are recent college graduates or people who have recently started looking for jobs but weren't laid off.

Only those who have been recently laid off are eligible for aid.

The economy has picked up this year, growing at an annual pace of about 4 percent in the past six months. That has led to more hiring: Employers

have added an average of 229,000 jobs a month this year, putting 2014 on pace to be strongest year for hiring since 1999.

That's up from an average of 194,000 jobs a month last year.

The steady job gains have helped push the unemployment rate down to 5.8 percent, a six-year low.

Still, the scars of the Great Recession haven't fully healed. □

## American consumer prices unchanged in October

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. consumer prices were unchanged in October as a fourth straight decline in gasoline costs helped to keep inflation at bay.

The steady reading for inflation last month followed a tiny 0.1 percent increase in September and a 0.2 percent drop in August, the Labor Department said Thursday. Energy prices fell 1.9 percent last month while food costs edged up a slim 0.1 percent.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food, rose 0.2 percent in October. For the past 12 months, overall inflation is up 1.7 percent while core inflation is up a similarly modest 1.8 percent.

Both gains are well below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent inflation target,



Customers shop at the Century 21 Department Store in Philadelphia. The Labor Department reported on October consumer prices on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

giving the central bank leeway to keep interest rates low to boost the economy without worrying about inflation.

"Inflation remains very

much in check despite the pickup in the economy over the past few quarters," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Plante Moran Financial Advisors.

"Weaker global commodity demand, a stronger U.S. dollar and lackluster wage growth have all helped to keep inflationary pressures in check."

The 0.1 percent rise in food prices was the smallest monthly increase since June. Over the past 12 months, food prices are up 3.1 percent, one of the biggest gains for any category and a reflection of drought conditions in California and other adverse weather patterns which have affected crops.

Gasoline costs were down 3 percent in October and analysts are looking for further declines giving continued drops in global oil prices. The AAA reports that the nationwide average for gas is currently \$2.86, down from \$3.11 a month ago. The modest inflationary pressures have allowed the central bank to keep interest rates at a record low for the past six years to help the economy recover from the worst recession since the 1930s. □

## Arizona sues General Motors for \$3B over recalls

**REBECCA R. RUIZ**

**© 2014 New York Times**

The attorney general of Arizona said this week that the state had filed suit against General Motors, claiming that the automaker had defrauded the state's consumers of an estimated \$3 billion. The suit is the first major legal action against GM over its record number of recalls this year, most notable among them one for a defective ignition switch in 2.6 million small cars that was delayed for decades. The complaint was harsh

and unsparing in its criticism of GM, suggesting that the automaker intentionally misled consumers through its advertising, website and public statements, and that some of its top leaders were complicit in the alleged misdeeds.

It said "New G.M.," the term used for the company that emerged from bankruptcy in 2009, "was not born innocent." "It is difficult to find a brand whose reputation has taken as great a beating as has the New G.M. brand starting in February

2014 when the first ignition-switch recall occurred," the complaint said.

In filing suit, Arizona has broken from a group of 48 state attorneys general that has been pursuing a multistate investigation into GM for its handling of the ignition-switch defect. The state had been on the executive committee of that multistate inquiry, led by South Carolina and Ohio.

"We're proceeding with our own suit because it's the best way to protect the citizens of Arizona," At-

torney General Thomas C. Horne, a Republican, said in an interview. "General Motors represented that it was taking care of the safety of its cars, and in fact there were serious defects that it did not disclose to the public for years."

The complaint offers precise calculations of the losses suffered by owners of GM vehicles, and suggests that "no reasonable consumer" would now buy a GM vehicle for the same price had "the brand continued to mean safety and

success." The complaint also rejects GM's claims that some long-standing defects resulting in recalls this year had been known only to low-level engineers. It says that Mary T. Barra, now the GM chief, had been informed in 2011 about a safety defect in the electronic power steering of some models.

"Despite 4,800 consumer complaints and more than 30,000 warranty repairs, G.M. waited until 2014 to disclose this defect," the complaint says. □



# Iraq, Turkey vow to work together against IS group

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraq's prime minister said on Thursday that his country and neighboring Turkey have agreed on closer security and intelligence cooperation in the face of the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

"We have a key agreement to exchange information and have full security cooperation," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told a news conference after talks with his visiting Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoglu. "The Turkish prime minister also wants us to have military cooperation in the face of terrorism and Daesh and we welcome that," said al-Abadi, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Davutoglu confirmed the two sides' agreement on closer security cooperation.

"I can say that Daesh threatens both Iraq and Turkey, but we will cooperate and do everything we can to stand up to terrorism," he said. "There is a new page in relations between Turkey and Iraq and that is why I hope that there will be close cooperation between our security and intelligence agencies to defeat terrorism."

The Turkish prime minister also rejected charges that his country facilitated the transit of militants through its territory to Syria.

"Turkey receives 35 million tourists a year and we cannot stop people from entering unless we have a case against them," he said in reply to a question. "There is no evidence or proof any Daesh leader transited through Turkey and if anyone has one he should come forward."

About a third of Iraq, which shares a porous border with Turkey, is held by the Islamic State group. Earlier this year, the group declared a caliphate on the large swaths of territory under its control in both Iraq and Syria.

Relations recently soured between Turkey and Iraq over what Baghdad sees

as illegal oil exports through Turkey by its Kurdish self-ruled northern region. Al-Abadi said on Thursday the two countries have

a terrorism investigation into three French Islamic State recruits calling for attacks back home in a propaganda video.

passports being burned in a campfire. They call on fellow French citizens to join them or carry out attacks in France.

tion would seek to identify the men. A former French fighter linked to the Islamic State group is accused in a deadly shooting at a Brussels Jewish museum, and European officials fear that newly radicalized and trained militant recruits will return from the battlefields of Syria and Iraq to cause havoc at home.

In the embattled northern Syrian town of Kobani along the Turkish border, the U.S.-led coalition carried out at least four airstrikes against Islamic State positions on Thursday, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Islamic State militants launched their offensive against Kobani in mid-September. After an initial rapid advance, the campaign has slowed to a grind as they faced stout resistance from the town's Kurdish defenders backed by international airstrikes.

Amnesty International has meanwhile called on the Turkish government to ensure safe passage for Syrian refugees seeking a safe haven in Turkey. □



Smoke rises from the Syrian city of Kobani, following an airstrike by the US led coalition, seen from a hilltop outside Suruc, on the Turkey-Syria border. Iraq's prime minister said on Thursday that his country and neighboring Turkey have agreed on closer security and intelligence cooperation in the face of the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

reached an agreement on the issue but did not elaborate.

He said Davutoglu has made clear to him that Turkey was keen to have "transparent and clear" relations on the oil issue and that Baghdad would be informed of any Iraqi oil exports going through Turkish territory.

Baghdad moved to withhold the 17-percent share of the national budget normally earmarked for the Kurdish region — an estimated \$20 billion — after the Kurds independently shipped oil to Turkey in January. In May, the Kurdish government sold 1.05 million barrels — worth more than \$100 million at the time — in Turkey.

Negotiations between Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government yielded some progress last week after Baghdad agreed to release \$500 million in frozen budget payments. In return, the Kurds will provide 150,000 barrels of oil per day for Baghdad to sell.

In Paris, the prosecutor's office said investigators on Thursday formally opened

The three men, who appear under Arabic pseudonyms, appear in a montage that also shows multiple French

Agnes Thibault-Lecuivre, spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office, said the anti-terrorism investiga-

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# Nicaragua: Studies say canal impact to be minimal

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)** — Officials said Thursday that studies have determined a \$40 billion inter-oceanic canal across Nicaragua will have minimal impact on the environment and society, and construction is to begin next month. Work will start Dec. 22 as planned with a port on the country's southern Pacific coast, said Zhu Xiaoya, an official with China's HKND Group, which was picked

to build the canal. The company called the project both feasible and environmentally sound, and defended the project's commitment to standards of quality and transparency. "We are ready to begin," Zhu said. The route was announced in July and teams began surveying it the following month. Some environmental

groups expressed concern about the canal and its fast-track approval, and residents of communities along the route have staged more than a dozen protest marches. "I think it's very premature to say that everything is fine," said Victor Campos of the Centro Humboldt environmental organization. "Theoretically the presentation can say many things, but we have to wait and

see." Ecologists worry there could be extensive damage from damming rivers and moving massive amounts of soil. Others have questioned the canal's financial soundness. "We understand (the opposition)," Zhu said, "but we are sure that the rumors about the project will end as it advances and this century-old dream of Nicaraguans is realized."

Officials forecast at least 50,000 jobs directly created by the construction, Canal Commission secretary Paul Oquist said. The waterway is planned to cover about 173 miles (278 kilometers) between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, including some 65 miles (105 kilometers) through Lake Nicaragua.

## Protesters, police clash in Mexico before marches

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Protesters marched in the capital Thursday to demand authorities find 43 missing college students, seeking to pressure the government on a day traditionally reserved for the celebration of Mexico's 1910-17 Revolution.

Authorities canceled the traditional Nov. 20 Revolution Day parade, but did not give a reason.

About 200 youthful protesters, some with their faces covered in masks or bandannas, scuffled with police as they tried to block a main expressway to the international airport. Protesters hurled rocks, fireworks and gasoline bombs at the police, at least one of whom was hit by the projectiles.

Some passengers had to walk to the terminal, but flights were not interrupted and expressways were re-opened.

Many average people, outraged by the disappearances of the students after a clash with police in

the southern city of Iguala, took part in more peaceful marches despite cold weather and a persistent

them," she added, referring to the 43 missing young men. "There are thousands of disappeared, thousands

Jaime clutched a Mexican flag on which the green and red stripes had been dyed black "as a sign of

the same fate. "I am terrified to live in a country like this. I am terrified for my son."

Maria Teresa Perez attended the march holding aloft a poster with a picture of her son, Jesus Horta Perez, 45, who was kidnapped by armed men from a storefront in a Mexico City suburb in 2009 and has never been heard from again.

"They are shouting about 43, but they should be counting in the thousands, because apart from these 43, there are 33,000 disappeared," Perez said.

Parents like her have been forced by police inaction to investigate their children's fate themselves. "All the trails they have come from us, they don't do anything," Perez said of the police.

Mexico officially lists 22,322 people as having gone missing since the start of the country's drug war in 2006. And the search for the missing students has turned up other, unrelated mass graves



**Riot police surround protesters who had thrown molotov cocktails and destroyed vehicles during a march near the airport in Mexico City, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. Protesters marched to demand authorities find 43 missing college students, trying to step up pressure on the government on a day traditionally reserved for the celebration of the 1910-17 Revolution.**

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

drizzle.

"The entire country is outraged," said housewife Nora Jaime. "It is not just

of clandestine graves, thousands of mothers who don't know where their children are."

mourning." She said she joined Thursday's march because she fears her teenage son could share

## 2 charged in killing of 4 relatives in Puerto Rico

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Two men have been charged with first-degree murder in the killings of a retired Army sergeant and three other family members, police said Thursday. Christopher Sanchez Asencio and Jose Bosch Mulero, both 27, also face nearly 40 other counts, including aggravated kidnapping of a minor and destruction of evidence.

They were being held on \$8 million bond each.

The victims include 67-year-old Miguel Ortiz Diaz, his wife, a 15-year-old son and his mother-in-law. They were fatally shot late Monday at their home in the upscale city of Guaynabo, southwest of the capital of San Juan. Police said a 13-year-old son survived after being stabbed and thrown off a bridge in the

neighboring municipality of Bayamon.

It is unclear whether the suspects have attorneys, although Bosch spoke briefly to reporters on Wednesday after he was arrested.

"To the boy who survived, I am truly sorry for what happened," he said.

Police have said they believe Ortiz was killed by people who were renting a house he owned and were

facing eviction because they had fallen behind on the rent. The 13-year-old boy remains hospitalized and is expected to recover as government officials debate who should obtain custody of him. His mother and grandmother had Peruvian citizenship, and family members in Peru have expressed interest in bringing him to the South American country.

Isadora Hernandez, a spokeswoman for Puerto Rico's Department of State, said in a phone interview that two Puerto Ricans have offered to pay for the flights and hotel of the victims' family members who live in Peru.

Ortiz had been a professor for nearly 20 years at Puerto Rico's American Military Academy, where his sons also were enrolled.





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## Colombia's rebel-held general a counterinsurgency strategist

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— The general whose capture by rebels has put Colombia's peace talks on hold is one of the country's foremost counterinsurgency strategists who once received his officer's insignia from the hands of U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus.

People who know Gen. Ruben Dario Alzate describe him as a studious man who sees himself as part of a new generation of Colombian military officers committed to using social projects to win the hearts and minds of poor communities in the battle against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

On Wednesday night, a deal was announced between the FARC and the government to facilitate the release of the general and two others who were snatched with him over the weekend as they traveled through the jungled waterways of western Colombia. It's not clear when that might take place or what the conditions are.

The capture of the 55-year-old officer led President Juan Manuel Santos to suspend the two-year-old peace talks and order a big search operation for the highest-ranking officer ever taken by the rebels. It remains unknown what the counterinsurgency specialist was doing out by a remote river, dressed in civilian clothes and without his full security detail when he was taken.

"A military career in Colombia is full of risks but I never imagined this was going to happen," his wife, Claudia Farfan, told The Associated Press before the release deal was announced. Later, speaking from her home at a heavily guarded

apartment complex for military officers, she said she was thrilled at the news.

"I can't wait for the moment to welcome my husband home," she said.

Farfan said she had received an outpouring of support from friends made in the U.S. during four different study sabbaticals.

Alzate was taking a leadership course at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas in 2005 when word came that he had been made colonel. Presiding over the promotion ceremony was the base's then-commander, the now retired Petraeus, who would quiz the officer on Colombia's half-century conflict at the same time as he was rewriting the U.S. Army's own counterinsurgency field manual to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2010, Alzate returned to the U.S. to earn a master's degree at the Army War College near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His thesis, littered with reference to Mao Zedong and early 20th century French soldier-intellectual David Galula, focuses on how cooperation between Colombia's military and a broad range of government institutions as well as U.S. agencies is key to safeguarding battlefield gains against the FARC.

"He clearly wants to see the country succeed in bringing about the rule of law," said retired U.S. Col. George Teague, who remembers Alzate as a deeply engaged, bookish and congenial student.

Alzate's bookshelf reflects his intellectual curiosity. Between framed artwork of famous U.S. military battles are books by Colin Powell and a dog-eared copy of Carl von Clausewitz's classic treatise "On War." □



Teresa de Jesus Munoz, mother of slain beauty queen Maria Jose Alvarado, 19, grieves over Maria's coffin during a wake for Maria and her sister Sofia outside the family's home in Santa Barbara, Honduras, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. Grieving family members laid to rest the Honduran beauty queen and her sister, after the women were shot to death in what police say was a jealous rage by the sister's boyfriend.

(AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

## Honduras:

## Slain beauty queen, sister buried

ALBERTO ARCE

Associated Press

GUALJOCO, Honduras (AP)

— Grieving family members laid to rest a beauty queen and her sister amid drenching rains Thursday, pleading for divine justice after the women were shot to death in what police say was a jealous rage by the sister's boyfriend.

Miss Honduras, 19-year-old Maria Jose Alvarado, and her sister Sofia, 23, were interred in two cement graves at a tiny cemetery in this hamlet north of their hometown of Santa Barbara. About 300 people, including mourners and security forces, trudged through the mud for the ceremony.

The bodies had been delivered to the family home before dawn, but a sustained downpour prevented the graves from being dug for hours. Their mother wept as she kissed the two caskets adorned with flow-

ers. Maria Jose's coffin was also draped with her beauty queen sash.

"We are going to miss you; you will live in our hearts forever. You have gone to reunite with our father in heaven. He awaits you and will care for you there," said 26-year-old Corina Alvarado, the victims' elder sister. "Only God can punish those killers as they deserve."

She remembered Maria Jose Alvarado, who was supposed to travel to London this week for the Miss World beauty pageant, as a woman who represented the best of Honduras. Pageant organizers issued a statement saying they were devastated and planned a special service Sunday to remember the sisters and pray for the family.

Friends and family said Alvarado had a lifelong fascination with beauty and fashion and began competing in pageants at age

13. She won one after another all the way until she was named Miss Honduras in April, after which she began modeling for clothing stores and catalogs.

But Alvarado was not caught up in the celebrity of her crown, often going around town in jeans with her hair up and no make-up. Friends and family described her as humble and kind, and excited by the life that being a beauty queen afforded.

Four people have been arrested in the killings, including Plutarco Ruiz, a man who family members said was courting Sofia, and a purported accomplice who allegedly helped bury the bodies on a remote river bank.

The couple who owned the spa where the sisters disappeared the night of Nov. 13 were taken into custody Wednesday on suspicion of illegal detention and concealment. □



## Venezuelan consumers get creative amid shortages

**HANNAH DREIER**  
**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Cloth diapers, baking soda to make deodorant and vinegar to mop the floor. That's not the shopping list of an eco-friendly hipster, it's how an increasing number of resourceful Venezuelans are making do in a time of severe shortages.

With the South American country entering what looks to be a third year of empty store shelves amid a deepening economic crisis, Venezuelans are turning to old-timey, all-natural methods to replace their favorite products.

At a smog-choked make-shift market under a downtown overpass, street vendors compare their preferred method of keeping the insects away, now that DEET bug spray is all but extinct here. The matter has taken on new urgency as a painful mosquito-borne illness, chikungunya, sweeps the country.

One peddler says she cooks up a clove-scented oil and puts it near her windows. Another uses Vitamin B lotion as repellent. And a bank attendant doing a bit of shopping chimes in that she burns citronella candles.

Lilian Ribas, who makes a living selling loudly colored tank-tops and hot pants, burns a coil of chrysanthemum incense to protect herself and her two sons. It's not a question of health or environmental concern, but of making do.

"Here, you just have to use what you find. There's no more question of choice," she said.

Home to the world's largest proven oil reserves, Venezuela is nothing if not a consumerist culture, de-

spite the anti-materialist ideology proffered by the nation's 14-year-old socialist revolution. In the 1970s, Venezuelan shoppers in Miami earned the nickname "dame dos," Spanish for "give me two." And with the highest per-capita gas consumption in Latin America, the country isn't about

flowing, blogs and newspapers have begun running instructions for making everything from vinegar-based cleaning products to condensed milk using ingredients that are still available, either because they're made locally or an importer has worked out a deal.

becomes harder to find.

"People are having to go back to the old ways," saleswoman Eufrocena Meneses said.

"I had my daughter 32 years ago, and I always used cloth diapers and washed them," replied co-worker Carmen De Leal, arms crossed. "Now the



**A flower seller shows a eucalyptus stalks in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014. In Venezuela people now burn eucalyptus as a method of keeping the bugs away now that DEET is all but extinct there.**

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

to win any recognition for its environmentalism.

But that same oil-dependence has led to a cycle of booms and busts that make Venezuelans especially adept at improvising during tough times.

"You have had a century of ups and downs, and instability. People get used to certain products. When they are not available they figure out a different way," said David Smilde, a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America who has spent decades researching in Venezuela.

To get the creative juices

Alicia Colmenarie, a retired preschool teacher, blends baking soda with lemon to make a deodorant stand-in for herself and her teenage daughter. She reminisced about her nice-smelling, quick-drying Dove antiperspirant while clutching a half dozen eucalyptus stalks she'd bought at the market to burn at home as a mosquito repellent.

A few blocks away, a saleswoman in a children's store had just re-stocked a display of cloth diapers. Clerks say the diapers sell out every month lately, as the disposable alternative

women have gotten lazy." In Cuba, Venezuela's closest ally, making do has become second nature. There, a population that has been grappling with shortages since the 1960s substitute lard for olive oil, punch holes in water bottles to make showerheads, and keep their vintage cars running with surprisingly functional homemade batteries. Such hardships have not yet arrived in Venezuela. Those with the means to travel abroad still bring back as many scarce items as excess baggage fees will permit.

## Caribbean Briefs

### Severe flooding across Guyana after heavy rain

**GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)**

— Heavy rains have flooded thousands of homes in the South American country of Guyana and forced the closure of schools and businesses in the capital, officials said Thursday. More than 7 inches (18 centimeters) of rain fell on the capital of Georgetown in less than 24 hours, and more rain was predicted for the coming days, meteorologists said. Many streets were impassable in Georgetown and there were widespread reports of flooding in the lower floors of buildings throughout the city. No deaths were reported. The Education Ministry said schools throughout the capital region were closed Thursday. Deputy City Mayor Patricia Chase-Green said there were also reports of flooding throughout the country, with up to 9 inches (23 centimeters) falling in a 12-hour period in the rice-growing region of Mahaica.

### Jamaica police arrested, facing murder charge

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)**

— A Jamaican policeman facing a murder charge has been arrested at an island airport. The Independent Commission of Investigations probes allegations against Jamaica's security forces. It has identified the arrested law enforcer as Constable Whitney Hutchinson, who is attached to the May Pen police division in central Jamaica. Investigators arrested him late Wednesday at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston. The commission earlier this year levied murder charges against eight other officers in the same police division in an unprecedented probe. Hutchinson is charged in the 2011 killing of a suspected gang member who was accused of threatening a judge.

## Argentina bill would oust foreign lawbreakers

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)**

— Argentina's Senate has passed a bill to expel foreigners caught breaking the law.

Senators approved the legislation 39-24 on Wednesday.

The bill backed by Presi-

dent Cristina Fernandez is expected to be passed by the lower house as well and turned into law. Fernandez has said there is a growing number of foreigners entering Argentina to commit crimes.

Under the bill, foreigners

caught breaking the law can be immediately expelled from Argentina and banned from returning for at least five years.

Foreign-born people with legal residence can ask to remain in Argentina to serve out their sentence for

the crime.

Argentines are growing increasingly worried about rising crime in their country. Rights groups say foreigners represent a fraction of law breakers and the proposed law could lead to unfair treatment.





**On Eagle Beach:**

## Great Athleticism at the Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open!

**EAGLE BEACH** - Hats off for the tireless Masters (50+ category) at the 2014 Divi Aruba Beach Tennis Open: these guys played and played, staying on the courts from 7 pm until 11 when the winner, Henry Hancock of the USA, defeated our own Jossy Mansur in a wonderful final. The Masters also played doubles last Wednesday, so they had their fun.

In the other categories the winners are: Intermediate Women: Tjasa Zupan (who defeated Alessandra Andrade), Advanced Women Afraina Ammerlaan against Marcia Miranda, Advanced Men Andre Alves against Gabriel Figuera, Intermediate Men Iztok Hodnik against Fausto Rossi, Fun Men Rafael Contini Perez against Ernst Keci and Masters Women Sueli Maluza against Monica da Silva. Masters Women Doubles champs are Sueli and



Lucienne, who defeated Livia and Katia (7-2), while Masters Men Angelo and Andrea defeated Martinez and Buccioli.

The big winner in the Pro division was Marco Garavini, number one in the world, who defeated Thales Santos (7-2). And Pauline Bour-

det caused an upset by winning the Open Women Singles final against number 5 in the world Flavia Muniz (7-4).

On Friday the doubles will get underway.

Photos show players of the Team Cup and the Nations Cup posing for a picture. □





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## EQ3 Aruba November:

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cluding the Klere white mirror, the Klere white coffee table, and the Klere white end table. In addition, with a focus on simple, classic design and maximum comfort, the EQ3 team is pleased to introduce and display the new Oskar sofa collection in their showroom. This sofa has multiple components within the collection and features loose seat and back cushions made of layered, varied density foam. Additionally, the upholstery cover is completely removable for easy cleaning!!

EQ3 has been differentiating itself from competitors for years when it comes to originality, flexibility and affordability. The EQ3 team welcomes you to pass by



up once again showcasing their mix of furniture selections, accessories and design, giving us all reasons to freshen up and redecorate our rooms. Their new arrivals include dé-

cor accessories including vibrant and colorful solid pillows, pattern pillows, different rug designs, dining napkins, serving ware, flatware, serving platters, the new Klere collection in-

and see our new collection from Monday thru Saturday from 10 AM till 6 PM, located at Schotlandstraat 45, across Ling & Sons, and is a real place of inspiration. □



# Kukoo Kunuku Serves Up Fun and Laughter in Aruba!



**PALM BEACH** - Born out of the dreams of a couple who escaped south for the winter and never left, Kukoo Kunuku is the place on Aruba to find great food and make fun memories with the people around you. Kukoo Kunuku offers party bus tours and other adventures that take guests on a whirlwind tour of some of Aruba's best sites as well as fun places where they can relax and grab a drink. Kukoo Kunuku is staffed by an eclectic mix of valued employees as diverse and interesting as Aruba itself. Their motto speaks for itself and is echoed by the experiences of taking a tour with them-

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Aruba's latest dinner under the stars location, Casibari Grill, is now featured on the Kukoo Kunuku Dinner and



**Barhopping Tour.** Kukoo Kunuku guests can now enjoy a great local BBQ meal with all the trimmings before embarking on a fun barhopping and night-life adventure. The newly renovated Casibari, is now open to the public seven days a week serving delicious drinks and an exciting array of menu options. It is full of character with an atmosphere that can't be beat anywhere else on the island! Take the opportunity to

dance, drink, talk, and enjoy the music at Casibari Grill when you stop by on a Kukoo Kunuku tour the next time you are in Aruba. More information and reviews of Kukoo Kunuku can be found on TripAdvisor- it comes highly recommended from travelers all around the world! For more information or to make reservations, please contact the Kukoo Kunuku at (297) 586-2010 or visit the website [www.kukookunuku.com](http://www.kukookunuku.com)! □

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In this Oct. 8, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson waits inside a courtroom while making his first court appearance in Conroe, Texas.

Associated Press

### Union appeals Adrian Peterson's suspension

**ROB MAADDI**

**AP Pro Football Writer**

The NFL players' union appealed the league's suspension of star running back Adrian Peterson and demanded an independent, neutral arbitrator hears the case.

The NFLPA called Commissioner Roger Goodell's punishment "unprecedented, arbitrary, and unlawful" in a letter to its player representatives and executive committee obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday.

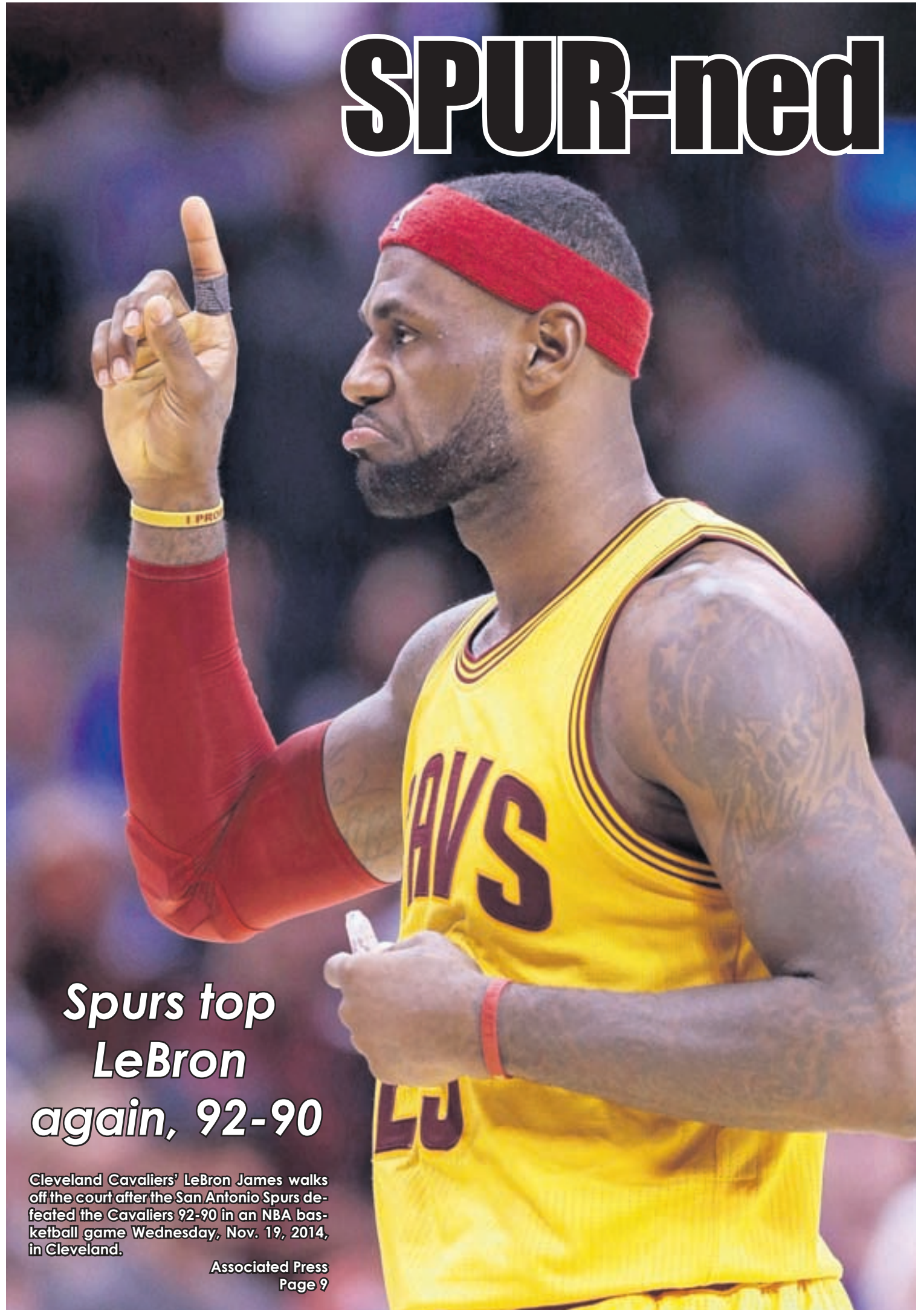
The union also accused Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, of telling Peterson that the games he missed on a special exempt list would count as time served toward a suspension.

League officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the AP.

Goodell on Tuesday suspended Peterson without pay for the rest of the season and told him he will not be considered for reinstatement before April 15 for his violation of the NFL personal conduct policy.

Continued on Next Page

# SPUR-ned



## Spurs top LeBron again, 92-90

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James walks off the court after the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Cavaliers 92-90 in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, in Cleveland.

Associated Press  
Page 9



# Lewis in range of big prize at Tour Championship

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**NAPLES, Fla. (AP)** — Stacy Lewis was three shots out of the lead Thursday and one step closer to the largest payoff in women's golf at the CME Group Tour Championship.

Lewis overcame the kind of tension she typically feels on the weekend at majors. She held it together with her short game, made a 25-foot eagle putt late in her opening round and wound up with a 3-under 69 to trail Julieta Granada by three shots.

"It's going to be a long week if we're feeling that on Thursday," Lewis said.

There are two tournaments in one at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort.

Granada played bogey-free in a tough wind on the Tiburon Course for a 66 that gave her a two-shot lead over Sandra Gal in the LPGA Tour's final tournament.

The other event is the Race to CME Globe, which pays a \$1 million bonus to the winner.

Only the top nine players in the standings can win it, and Granada isn't one of them. She still hopes to close out the season with her first victory in eight years.

The top three players — Lewis, Inbee Park and 17-year-old Lydia Ko — need only to win the tournament for the \$1 million bonus. Lewis is atop the standings, so finishing ahead of the other two is a

good spot to be. Park and Ko each shot 71.

"I think everybody is thinking about the \$1 million,"



**Julieta Granada of Paraguay eyes her putt on hole 3 Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, at the Tiburon Golf Club at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

Park said.

It certainly showed at the start, especially when Lewis sent her opening tee shot well to the right. She recovered well and nearly holed a bunker shot for birdie.

Conditions were tough enough that only five players broke 70, and 19 of the 69 in the field broke par.

Lewis surged ahead with a hybrid from 217 yards that finished pin-high at the back of the green on the par-5 17th, and she lightly pumped her fist when it fell for eagle.

All week long, the chatter

has been about everything at stake at the Tour Championship. Along with the \$1 million bonus, Lewis or Park

Granada is No. 24 in the standings, though there is plenty on the line at a tournament that still pays

Karrie Webb (No. 9) each had a 74, while Anna Nordqvist (No. 7) shot 77.

So Yeon Ryu (No. 5) had a 70. U.S. Women's Open champion Michelle Wie, who is fourth in the standings, opened with two early birdies and was in good shape until a double bogey from a bunker on No. 16 and a bogey on the 17th, which felt like giving up two shots to the field. She was at 72.

Lewis thought she easily could have been 3 over through three holes, so toiling for pars at least calmed her down for a challenging day.

"Those first three or four holes, my swing was fine. I just wasn't trusting what I was doing," Lewis said. "You're worried about making a mistake or a big number. That was the hardest part. ... I don't know if Lydia quite understands all that's going on, but you could see it in Inbee and probably in me, too."

We both played some tentative golf today, and hopefully, we can both free it up as we go throughout the week."

Park made 15 pars in what she called a "boring round" with plenty of birdie chances and very few marked on her card. Just like Lewis, though, the five-time major champion didn't shoot herself out of the tournament. "Just happy that I still have a chance to win everything," Park said. "I'm going to play very hard the next three days." □

could take home all the significant awards on the LPGA Tour — player of the year, Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average and the money title.

"It's one good round," Lewis said. "We've got a long, long way to go."

Granada knows what it's like to be an instant millionaire. She was a 20-year-old rookie in 2006 when she captured the ADT Championship, which at the time was turned into a winner-take-all extravaganza. That remains her only LPGA victory.

\$500,000.

"I think all the girls that have a chance, they know what they're doing out there," Granada said.

"They're tough and they're good players, so they will just keep playing their game."

This course is a good finish, especially with 17 being a reachable par 5."

Of the top nine in the standings who have a mathematical shot at the \$1 million, only three failed to break par.

Defending champion Shanshan Feng (No. 6) and

## Adrian Peterson's

**Continued from Previous Page**

Peterson pleaded no contest on Nov. 4 to misdemeanor reckless assault in Texas for injuries to his 4-year-old son with a branch.

Peterson has said he intended no harm to his son, only discipline. The 2012 NFL MVP played just one game for the Minnesota Vikings this season and was paid part of his \$11.75 million during the leave. He will keep the money accrued while on the exempt list. But the NFL's punish-

ment now amounts to a 14-game ban, with six unpaid weeks. That's the equivalent of a fine of more than \$4.1 million.

Goodell announced on Aug. 28 tougher punishment for players involved with domestic violence. That action stemmed from a torrent of criticism for the initial leniency toward former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice, who was caught on camera hitting his then-fiancee and knocking her unconscious on an elevator in an Atlantic City casino. Rice was later suspended in-



**In this Dec. 1, 2013, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, left, tries to break a tackle from Chicago Bears free safety Chris Conte during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Minneapolis.**

**Associated Press**

definitely and recently had his appeal heard by an arbitrator.

According to the enhanced policy, first offenses of assault, battery or domestic violence bring a six-game suspension.

But the union is arguing that the new policy was enacted after the incident had already occurred and shouldn't be retroactively applied to Peterson's conduct in May 2014.

The union also claims the "NFL is making up the process and punishment as it goes — a blatant violation of the CBA." □





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## Spurs beat LeBron James again, down Cavs 92-90

The Associated Press

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Tim Duncan and Boris Diaw scored 19 points apiece and the San Antonio Spurs beat Cleveland for the 10th straight time with a 92-90 win over the Cavaliers on Wednesday.

Manu Ginobili scored on a layup with 18 seconds left, made a free throw with 9.1 to go and harassed James into a turnover with 1.9 seconds remaining for the defending NBA champions. It was the first meeting between the Spurs and James since last June, when San Antonio overpowered the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals.

Anderson Varejao scored 23 points, Kyrie Irving added 20 and James 15 for the Cavs, who fell to 5-5.

James was just 6 of 17 from the field and Kevin Love went 4 of 12.

Cleveland hasn't beaten San Antonio since March 8, 2010, during James' first stint with the Cavs.

**BUCKS 122, NETS 118, 3OT**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Milwaukee Bucks overcame Brandon Knight's shocking missed layup at the end of the first overtime to outlast the Nets in coach Jason Kidd's return to Brooklyn.

Knight made the tying 3-pointer in the second overtime and the clinching free throws with 5.6 seconds to go in the third, allowing the Bucks to escape with a victory.

Rookie Jabari Parker scored a season-high 23 points, O.J. Mayo added 21, and Knight and Giannis Antetokounmpo each had 18 for the Bucks, who won their third straight.

Brook Lopez scored a season-best 26 points for the Nets, who have dropped five in a row.

**RAPTORS 96, GRIZZLIES 92**

**TORONTO (AP)** — DeMar DeRozan scored 21 points and Terrence Ross had 14 of his 16 in the fourth quarter as Toronto beat undermanned Memphis.

Kyle Lowry scored 18 and Lou Williams had 13 as the Eastern Conference leaders won for the seventh time in eight games.

Marc Gasol had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Zach Randolph added 18 points and 18 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who came in with the NBA's best record at 10-1 but had their four-game winning streak stopped.

Memphis had just 10 active players after Courtney Lee, Tony Allen, Kosta Koufos, Jon Leuer and Beno Udrih got sick and had to go to a hospital with dehydration.

**LAKERS 98, ROCKETS 92**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Kobe Bryant had 29 points, Wesley Johnson made key free throws down the stretch and Los Angeles took advantage of Dwight Howard's absence in a victory over Houston.

It was the second consecutive win for the Lakers following a 1-9 start.

Los Angeles used a 7-1 run, highlighted by Bryant's three-point play and capped by four free throws from Johnson, to take a 94-92 lead with less than a minute left.

Nick Young and Bryant added two free throws apiece to secure the victory.

Tarik Black, a rookie who was filling in for the injured Howard (strained right knee), missed a free throw and a jump shot down the stretch. James Harden led the Rockets with 24 points.

**SUNS 88, PISTONS 86**

**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)** — Eric Bledsoe scored 18 points, including the win-



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant reacts after being fouled while making a basket against the Houston Rockets during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, in Houston. The Lakers won 98-92.

Associated Press

ning basket with 28.7 seconds to play, to lift Phoenix. P.J. Tucker added 16 points for the Suns, who have won four of their last six.

Brandon Jennings scored 19 points to lead Detroit, losers of three straight and six of seven.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3-pointer with about 40 seconds left put the Pistons ahead 86-85 before the Suns regained the lead on Bledsoe's driving layup.

The game was played on the 10th anniversary of Pacers-Pistons brawl at the Palace of Auburn Hills, which started when Indiana's Ron Artest went into the crowd after being hit by a thrown beer.

**MAVERICKS 105, WIZARDS**

**102**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Dirk Nowitzki limped off to the locker room after a fourth-quarter fall, then returned to make a key 3-pointer, and Monta Ellis scored 24 of his 34 points in the first half to lead Dallas to its fifth straight win.

Nowitzki went down in the key with about eight minutes left after twisting his left ankle, but he came back with 3 1/2 minutes to go and Dallas trailing by a point. With 80 seconds left, Nowitzki sank a 3 to put the Mavs ahead 102-97.

Washington lost at home for the first time this season, despite Bradley Beal's first action following left wrist surgery. He led Washington with 21 points.

**NUGGETS 107, THUNDER 100**

**DENVER (AP)** — Wilson Chandler had 21 points, including a key 3-pointer late in the game, and Timofey Mozgov finished with a season-high 17 to lift Denver over Oklahoma City.

Ty Lawson added 15 points and 15 assists for the Nuggets, who returned home following a 2-1 trip that included a win over LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

Serge Ibaka had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Oklahoma City, who have started the season 3-10 without Kevin Durant (broken right foot) and Russell Westbrook (broken right hand).

**CELTICS 101, 76ERS 90**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Brandon Bass scored 23 points, Jared Sullinger added 22 and Boston sent Philadelphia to its 11th straight loss to start the season.

Rajon Rondo had 13 assists with nine points, and Jeff Green chipped in 11 points for the Celtics, who ended a three-game losing streak. Tony Wroten led five 76ers in double figures with 21 points. Philadelphia is seven defeats from tying the 2009-10 Nets for the worst start in NBA history.

**CLIPPERS 114, MAGIC 90**

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)** — Jamal Crawford had 22 point, and Chris Paul added 16 points and nine assists as the Clippers beat the Magic.

Blake Griffin scored 20 points, and Jordan Farmar and Matt Barnes each had 13 as the Clippers opened a seven-game East Coast trip with an easy victory.

Tobias Harris led Orlando with 25 points. Nik Vucevic contributed 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Channing Frye and Andrew Nicholson each had 10 each points for the Magic. □



# NFL to relocate Bills home game against Jets

**JOHN WAWROW**  
AP Sports Writer  
BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— A severe snowstorm has forced the Buffalo Bills to leave town to play their home game against the New York Jets this weekend. And there's no telling if the Bills can have Ralph Wilson Stadium ready in time for their following home game against the Cleveland Browns on Nov. 30, team president Russ Brandon said during a telephone conference Thursday night. More than 5 feet (1.5 meters) of snow has fallen on the region since Monday, and more was projected to fall by Friday. Without providing any assurances, Brandon said it will take "an all hands on deck exercise" to have the stadium ready to host the Browns. He added that the Bills are already contemplating the possibility of spending much of next week practicing out of town because of how difficult it could be to travel in Buffalo because of the paralyzing storm. Brandon spoke an hour after the NFL announced that



Snow covers a sign at Ralph Wilson Stadium, home of the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

it will relocate the Bills home game against the Jets due to public safety concerns. The league has still not announced where or when the game against the Jets will be played. The Bills are already making plans to fly out of Buffalo as soon as they can once the location of the game is es-

tablished. The team has canceled the past two days of practice because many of its players are snowed in. And those who can get out can't get to the team's facility because of a driving ban in place in Orchard Park and many of its neighboring communities,

"We have been in contact with the public authorities and we realize the importance of all available public safety resources being available for the community at this difficult time," NFL spokesman Michael Signora said. There's a possibility the Bills game against the Jets would be played on

Monday or as late as Tuesday to allow the Bills time to practice. The Bills (5-5), who last practiced on Monday, are already coming off an extended break. They had last weekend off following a 22-9 loss at Miami on Nov. 13. The Jets (2-8) are coming out of their bye week, and haven't played since a 20-13 win against Pittsburgh on Nov. 9. Jets coach Rex Ryan said his team wouldn't be hampered by a change of venue. "It wouldn't affect us," Ryan said Thursday. "We'd just aim our plane in a different direction, I guess." The temperatures are expected to warm by Saturday, but a sudden thaw presents another problem by raising flooding concerns. Though rare, changing the date or location of a game has happened before in the NFL. The most notable switch occurred in 2005, when the New Orleans Saints were forced to split their season playing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and San Antonio, Texas, after Hurricane Katrina damaged the Louisiana Superdome.

# Nike nixes tribute shoe plan after Iverson protest

**DAN GELSTON**  
AP Sports Writer  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Nike

is pulling back on plans for a shoe that sneakily honors Allen Iverson after the former NBA superstar questioned whether the company could use his old number and team colors while he's endorsed by rival Reebok.

Iverson says Nike used his identity, likeness and persona without permission for a sneaker out of the company's Zoom Flight '96 collection.

The ambiguously titled sneaker has the No. 3 — Iverson's number — on each back heel and the red, white and blue colors of the Philadelphia 76ers. Neither Iverson nor the Sixers are named on the sneakers or on the branding for the shoes, which were expect-



In this Dec. 7, 2009, file photo, Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson calls out a play to teammates in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

ed to be released this year or in early 2015. Iverson's lawyer sent a letter to Nike this week objecting to the shoe. Nike spokesman KeJuan

Wilkins said in a statement on Thursday that the version of the shoe Iverson protested won't hit stores. "Nike has made a business decision to not move forward with the shoe in the red/blue and white/purple colorways," Wilkins said in an email. "However, two colorways inspired by the original 1996 colorways will still be available for purchase." Iverson, who retired last season, has had a shoe contract with Reebok since Philadelphia made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 NBA draft. Iverson's signature shoe, "The Answer," was Reebok's flagship sneaker and runaway top seller during his prime seasons in the late 1990s, early 2000s. And Reebok is getting ready to release a new Iverson version of its

iconic "Pump" sneaker. A letter faxed this week by Iverson's attorney, Derek Challenger, to Nike demands the company remove the sneaker from any retail inventories or website advertisements and cease any future sales of the product. "There's no other No. 3 that played for the 76ers that came out of the 1996 draft," Challenger said. "For Nike to use his status to sell shoes, and not get his permission, to not compensate him, is bad business." Challenger said on Thursday after learning Nike was pulling the shoe that Iverson should be compensated for shoes that have already been sold, and would still object if the No. 3 is on the heel of the sneaker. Lucas Ehrbar, editor of the website Nikeblog.com, said

the sneaker released under the Nike Sportswear banner was already released in Asia. Even in retirement, Iverson still has worldwide appeal to sneakerheads. The Nike tribute sneakers can be found on eBay — under a search for Iverson — for \$109 to \$129 a pair. Athletes have had mixed results fighting use of their likeness that didn't directly involve their name. College basketball star Ed O'Bannon and others including NBA great Bill Russell settled a class-action lawsuit against EA Sports for \$40 million for its use of their likenesses in their college basketball video games. But former NFL running back Jim Brown lost a similar lawsuit against the same company in a decision that was upheld in a federal appeals court.





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# L.A. Kings' Voynov charged with domestic violence

**GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Hockey Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kings defenseman Slava Voynov was charged with felony domestic violence on Thursday by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Voynov faces one felony count of corporal injury to a spouse with great bodily injury. In a statement providing the first public details of the incident, the district attorney's office said Voynov "caused his wife to suffer injuries to her eyebrow, cheek and neck" during an argument at their home, several hours after the Kings won an afternoon game.

The 24-year-old Russian Olympian has been suspended since his arrest early Oct. 20 at a hospital in Torrance, California. He had taken his wife to the hospital for treatment of injuries from their home in nearby Redondo Beach. Craig Renetzky, Voynov's attorney, has repeatedly said his client didn't hit his wife. Renetzky also said Voynov shouldn't have

been arrested, blaming a misunderstanding between police and Voynov's wife, who speaks even less English than her husband.

"Mr. Voynov is extremely disappointed that the district attorney's office elected to file charges," Renetzky said in a statement. "Mr. Voynov maintains his innocence and looks forward to clearing his name in court. We remain confident." Voynov was suspended indefinitely by the NHL before he even posted bail on the morning of his arrest. The Kings have wholeheartedly supported the league's disciplinary actions, and they affirmed that position in a statement issued by the team after Voynov was charged.

"We are aware of the actions taken today in California, which we will review and evaluate before making any decisions," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said. "Until further notice, the current terms of Mr. Voynov's suspension remain in place."

The NHL's position means the Kings will not receive

salary cap relief in the absence of Voynov, who is still being paid his \$3 million salary during his suspension. With Voynov still counting against the cap, Los Angeles was forced to play with five defensemen earlier this month while unable to recall anyone from the minors to fill in for an injured player.

"As an organization we will continue to closely monitor the developments of the legal proceedings and work in partnership with the NHL to determine the proper course of action in the future," the Kings said in their statement.

Voynov isn't allowed to practice or play for the team, but he has been skating at the Kings' training complex after their practices, sometimes under the supervision of an assistant coach.

Voynov will be arraigned Dec. 1 in Torrance. The charge carries a maximum penalty of nine years in prison, and Voynov also could face deportation.

Voynov is a two-time Stanley Cup champion who



In this May 18, 2014, file photo, Los Angeles Kings' Slava Voynov reacts during the second period in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs in Chicago.

Associated Press

also played for Russia at the Sochi Olympics. He will miss his 14th straight game Thursday night when the Kings host Carolina.

Through her own attorney, Voynov's wife previously said she didn't want charges filed against the defenseman, but California authorities aren't required to consider such wishes when deciding to file charges. Voynov and his wife got married during the sum-

mer. They are still living together and raising her child from a prior relationship.

Voynov earned a spot in the Kings' lineup as a rookie during their run to their first Stanley Cup title in 2011-12. He scored a career-best 34 points last season, and he has two assists in six games this year.

The Kings signed Voynov to a six-year, \$25 million contract extension in June 2013. □



New York Rangers goalie Cam Talbot (33) protects the puck from Philadelphia Flyers' Matt Read (24) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Cam Talbot made 31 saves for his first win of the season and

fourth career NHL shutout as the New York Rangers ended a three-game losing streak with a 2-0 victory

## Rangers' Talbot stops 31 shots in win over Flyers

over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday.

New York beat the Flyers for the ninth straight time at Madison Square Garden in the regular season. Talbot got the win while subbing for Henrik Lundqvist, who served as his backup.

It was Talbot's first victory since another shutout at Edmonton on March 30 — a span of six games for the goalie. Kevin Klein scored in the first period, and Rick Nash had a goal in the second.

Steve Mason stopped 32 shots for Philadelphia, which lost its third straight. CANUCKS 5, OILERS 4

**EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)** — Radim Vrbata scored two goals in the second period to lead Vancouver to the victory.

Jannik Hansen, Chris Higgins and Yannick Weber also scored for the Canucks, who have won all four of their games against Edmonton this season and three of their last four games overall.

Canucks goalie Ryan Miller improved to 11-0 in his career against Edmonton, now the longest active win streak against a single team in the NHL. He had 28 saves.

The Oilers have lost four in a row and are winless against the NHL Western Conference in 10 games this season.

Steven Pinizzotto, Teddy Purcell, Boyd Gordon and Andrew Ference scored for Edmonton, and Ben Scrivens made 26 stops. □





In this Aug. 14, 2014, file photo, Major League Baseball Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred speaks to reporters after team owners elected him as the next commissioner of Major League Baseball in Baltimore.

Associated Press

## Manfred given 5-year term as MLB commissioner

**DAVE SKRETTA**

**AP Sports Writer**

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)**

— Rob Manfred has been given a five-year term as Major League Baseball commissioner when he succeeds Bud Selig in two months.

Team owners voted for the term on Thursday at their first meeting since electing Manfred over Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner on Aug. 14. Manfred, who has worked for MLB since 1998, will take over from the 80-year-old Selig on

Jan. 25.

Selig said Manfred's term was approved "unanimously, quietly and quickly," and the transition of power has been orderly.

"That's the way it's supposed to be," Selig said after two days of meetings.

Manfred said improving the pace of play will remain a priority.

He also said video replay will be similar to this past season, and changes will stem from technology and "how long it takes to get replay going." □

## Japan beats MLB All-Stars 6-4 in exhibition game

**NAHA, Japan (AP)**

— Yuki Yanagita greeted Randy Choate with a two-run single in the eighth inning, and Japan beat the Major League Baseball All-Stars 6-4 Thursday in an exhibition game following their five-game postseason tour. Japan won the series 3-2 and the teams split a pair exhibition games that preceded and followed.

With Japan ahead 3-2 Thursday,

Nobuhiro Matsuda doubled off Jose Veras leading off the eighth, and Ginji

Akaminai walked. After a pair of bunts, Choate relieved, Yanagita singled and Ryosuke Kikuchi tripled for a 6-2 lead.

Justin Morneau had an RBI single in the bottom half, and Alcides Escobar hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

Shota Takada won by allowing one run — unearned — four hits and four walks in three innings, and Yuji Nishino pitched the ninth for the save. Loser Hector Santiago gave up two runs — one earned — and four hits in four innings. □



Henrik Kristoffersen competes during the first run of an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom race, in Levi, Finland, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014.

Associated Press

## Air bag system approved for World Cup ski races

**ANDREW DAMPF**

**AP Sports Writer**

**ROME (AP)**

— Perhaps if Lindsey Vonn had a big cushy air bag to fall on when she tore two ligaments in her right knee she wouldn't have missed the Sochi Olympics.

And maybe Aksel Lund Svindal wouldn't have broken bones in his face and suffered a laceration to his groin and abdominal area after failing to land a massive jump in 2007.

Looking back, it's nearly impossible to calculate what effect — if any — an air bag would have had in those crashes.

But with a radical air bag system being approved for use in World Cup and lower level races beginning in January, Alpine skiing could get a lot safer.

"History is what drives the future," International Ski Federation (FIS) secretary general Sarah Lewis told The Associated Press on Tuesday after the approval was announced. "So the lessons learned from different crashes in the past are used as the basis to improve the situation in the future."

The system — which entails putting an air bag in the neck area of athletes' back protectors — was developed by Italian manufacturer Dainese in coordination with the FIS. It

inflates when skiers lose control and are about to crash.

"Dainese has been closely aligned to it but there are other companies out there which are also developing their systems," Lewis said.

Until December, the system can be worn in World Cup downhill training sessions. Intended for speed disciplines, the system's race debut will come at the women's downhill in Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria, on Jan. 10. Men will use it for the first time at the classic venue of Wengen, Switzerland, the following weekend.

While the system is not mandatory, the FIS hopes that all World Cup racers will use it.

The FIS had originally hoped to implement the system at the start of this season but there were concerns over the shape and aerodynamics of the back protectors, which hold a small gas generator capsule that inflates the air bags.

The air bags were already worn by Dainese-sponsored athletes during official training runs last season.

Dainese has been collecting information from skiers for five years to find out exactly when the system should go into effect — in other words, at what point

in a fall can a racer no longer regain control.

"You want to avoid false positives so it doesn't release when it doesn't need to," Lewis said. "On the other side, you don't want the reverse to happen, which is for it not to release when it should."

A similar air bag system has been used in motorcycle racing since 2009.

"There will continue to be injuries but we want to try to work in a way to minimize these and still keep the sport attractive and exciting," Lewis said.

Skiing has always been an injury-riddled sport but the worst crashes were particularly severe when the air bag system first came into development about five years ago.

In 2008, American downhiller Scott Macartney suffered brain injuries and was kept in an induced coma after losing control and smashing his head on the final jump of the treacherous Streif course in Kitzbuehel, Austria.

Also in 2008, Austria's Matthias Lanzinger had his lower left leg amputated after crashing in Kvitfjell, Norway. The next year, Daniel Albrecht of Switzerland suffered life-threatening brain and lung injuries after a crash in the same spot as Macartney in Kitzbuehel. □



# Yahoo replaces Google as Firefox's default search

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Yahoo will supplant Google's search engine on Firefox's Web browser in the U.S., signaling Yahoo's resolve to regain some of the ground that it has lost in the most lucrative part of the Internet's ad market.

The five-year alliance announced Wednesday will end a decade-old partnership in the U.S. between Google Inc. and the Mozilla Foundation, which oversees the Firefox browser. The tensions between Google and Mozilla had been rising since Google's introduction of the Chrome browser in 2008 began to undercut Firefox. Google's current contract with Mozilla expires at the end of this month, opening an opportunity for Yahoo to pounce.

Even though Chrome is now more widely used, Firefox still has a loyal audience that makes more than 100 billion worldwide search requests annually. Yahoo is hoping to impress Firefox users as the Sunnyvale, California, company sets out to prove that it's still adept at Internet search after leaning on Microsoft's technology for most of the results on Yahoo's own website for the past four years.

Financial details of Yahoo's Firefox contract weren't disclosed. In a blog post, Mozilla CEO Chris Beard said the new deal offers "strong, improved economic terms" while allowing Mozilla "to innovate and advance our mission in ways that best serve our users and the Web."

Google accounted for 90 percent, or about \$274 million, of Mozilla's royalty revenue in 2012. Mozilla hasn't released its annual report for last year.

Besides dropping Google in the U.S., Mozilla is also shifting Firefox to Baidu's search engine in China and Yandex in Russia. Firefox users still have the option to pull down a tab to pick Google and other



A worker walks into Yahoo headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif., in this July 29, 2009 file photo.

Associated Press

search engines as their preferred way for looking up information online.

Yahoo Inc. CEO Marissa Mayer, a former Google executive, hailed the Firefox agreement as Yahoo's most significant partnership since forging the Microsoft deal in 2009.

"We believe deeply in search — it's an area of investment and opportunity for us," Mayer wrote in a Wednesday blog post.

Yahoo plans to unveil a "clean and modern" search engine on Firefox next month and then roll out the new model on its own website early next year, Mayer wrote.

The redesign will primarily affect how Yahoo's search engine's results are displayed, and not the way that requests are processed.

The search technology will continue to be provided by Microsoft Corp. as part of a 10-year deal Yahoo signed in 2009, according to Mel Guymon, Yahoo's vice president of search.

In various public remarks since becoming Yahoo's CEO two years ago, Mayer has expressed disappointment with Microsoft's search technology. That has spurred speculation that she might renegotiate

or end the Microsoft search partnership next year when Yahoo has an option to re-evaluate the deal. Yahoo currently receives \$88 of every \$100 in revenue generated from ads posted alongside the search results on its website.

Those payouts have helped Yahoo boost its revenue from search advertising for 11 consecutive quarters,

compared with the previous year.

Despite those gains, more searches have been shifting to Microsoft's Bing search engine, causing Yahoo to slip further behind its rivals. Yahoo is expected to end this year with a 5.6 percent share of U.S. search advertising revenue, down from 6.6 percent in 2012,

according to the research firm eMarketer.

Yahoo's stock gained 52 cents to \$51.10 in extended trading Wednesday. The shares have been hovering around their highest levels in more than 14 years, largely because Yahoo owns a large stake in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., a rapidly growing e-commerce site in China.

## Experts: Home, baby cameras not secure worldwide

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A child playing in Bucheon, South Korea. An empty crib in Absecon, New Jersey. Cattle feeding in Behamberg, Austria. Footage from more than 100 countries is being streamed from bedrooms, office buildings, shops, laundromats, stables and barns.

Experts have a message for anyone with a webcam, baby monitor or home security camera: change your password now, because feeds from the cameras are being posted online by a Russian website. The site takes advantage of the fact that camera users

receive default passwords to get devices working — such as "1234." Many manufacturers also put default passwords online, Britain's Information Commissioner's Office said Thursday.

"The ability to access footage remotely is both an internet camera's biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially its biggest security weakness," Simon Rice, the ICO group manager for technology, said in a statement. "Remember, if you can access your video footage over the internet, then what is stopping someone else from doing the same?" The ICO is joining with its counterparts in the United

States, China, Australia and Canada in warning consumers about the Russian site, which offers live streams together with the coordinates of where the cameras are located. Officials declined to publicly identify the site for fear of driving traffic to it.

Authorities say they have no jurisdiction in Russia, so it is simpler to warn people about the site than it is to try to take the site down.

"I will do what I can but don't wait for me to have sorted this out," Information Commissioner Christopher Graham said. "The action is in your own hands if you have one of these pieces of kit."





Caroline Head, right, clicks through websites on a laptop during a sales tax holiday sale at Best Buy on in Augusta, Ga. Best Buy on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 said its revenue edged up in the third quarter, a positive sign for the electronics retailer as the holiday season kicks off.

(AP Photo/Sara Caldwell)

## Best Buy 3Q sales surprise bodes well for the holidays

**MAE ANDERSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Best Buy's third-quarter sales gain is a positive sign for the electronics retailer as the holiday season kicks off.

Both revenue and earnings per share beat expectations, and Best Buy stock rose almost 8 percent in midday trading.

The two-month holiday shopping season is crucial since it accounts for about 20 percent of the retail industry's annual sales. Best Buy CEO Hubert Joly said he expects competition for shoppers to be "intense" this year. Best Buy plans to offer more gifts under \$100 but be disciplined about markdowns and promotions, which helps protect profit margins.

But in a call with investors, Joly said the limited supply of some hot products and possible labor strife on the West Coast could hinder sales. He forecast flat revenue for the fourth quarter. Best Buy is introducing so-called "Black Friday" sales starting this week and rolling out more deals as Black Friday, the busy shopping day after Thanksgiving, nears. The company plans to offer more gifts under \$25, \$50 and \$100 in its stores. And Joly says its deals will be more "balanced and targeted" this year in order to be "thoughtful in terms of return on investment."

Richfield, Minnesota-

based Best Buy has been cutting costs and revamping stores to improve results as it faces increased competition from online retailers and discount stores. For example, it has been increasing its speedier "ship from store" deliveries. Last year it shipped from 400 stores, and this year it will ship items from all 1,400 of its stores.

In the third quarter, revenue edged up less than 1 percent to \$9.38 billion. Analysts expected revenue to decline to \$9.1 billion, according to Zacks Investment Research. Revenue in stores open at least one year, a closely watched performance metric, rose 2.2 percent in the quarter.

Computers, video games, TVs and appliances were the best-selling items. Sales of services, tablets and phones were weaker, despite the flashy launch of Apple's iPhone 6 in September.

Net income after paying preferred dividends totaled \$107 million, or 30 cents per share. That compares with net income of \$54 million, or 16 cents per share. Adjusted for one-time items, net income totaled 32 cents per share. Analysts expected 25 cents per share.

Shares gained \$2.74, or 7.7 percent, to \$38.28 in midday trading. The stock had been down about 11 percent since the beginning of the year. □

## Wall Street edges back to record highs

**ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks rebounded Thursday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index back into record territory.

It was the second record-high close for the Dow this week and the third for the S&P 500. The modest gains erased losses from the day before, pushing the three major stock indexes further ahead for the week.

Good news on housing, the job market and another dash of strong corporate earnings helped drive stocks higher, reversing a decline earlier in the day. Energy stocks led the gainers in the S&P 500 as oil prices rose.

Discouraging economic data out of Europe and China stoked worries of a global economic slowdown and sent stocks lower in early trading. But investors shrugged off those concerns, reassured by a batch of positive U.S. economic reports.

"Housing was good, leading indicators were good, manufacturing was good,"

time high.

"That's a signal for investors that the fundamentals are solid behind this market," Cote said.

In the end, the S&P 500 index rose 4.03 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,052.75. That's just above the index's previous record-high close on Tuesday at 2,051.80. The S&P 500 is up 11.1 percent this year.

The Dow gained 33.27 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,719. That's up from its last record-high close of 17,687.82 on Tuesday. The Dow is up 6.9 percent this year.

The Nasdaq composite added 26.16 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,701.87. The tech-heavy index is up 12.6 percent this year.

The major stock indexes were moving lower early Thursday, then spent much of the morning drifting between tiny gains and losses. They turned higher around midmorning, as the market digested the news on housing.

Sales of previously occupied homes increased in

partment said applications for unemployment benefits fell slightly last week to a seasonally adjusted 291,000. The applications, which are a proxy for layoffs, have fallen 16 percent in the past 12 months.

Also on Thursday, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia said its regional manufacturing index rose to the highest level since 1993, adding to other recent evidence that U.S. manufacturing is expanding modestly and helping boost economic growth.

That data offset worries over the 18-country eurozone, where a broad gauge of business activity fell this month to a 16-month low. In China, a preliminary survey showed manufacturing in the world's second-largest economy slid to a six-month low this month.

While a concern, the global economic picture has taken a back seat to corporate earnings and the improving job market and economy in the U.S. and emerging markets.

"We're coming off an earn-



Trader Sean Spain, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks rebounded Thursday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index back into record territory.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at Voya Investment Management.

Traders also drew encouragement from retailers including Best Buy, Dollar Tree and Kirkland's, which reported better-than-expected earnings. Third-quarter earnings for companies in the S&P 500 are at an all-

October on an annual basis for the first time this year, according to the National Association of Realtors. The report helped lift the stock prices of many homebuilders. William Lyon Homes led the gainers, adding 97 cents, or 5 percent, to \$20.23.

Meanwhile, the Labor De-

ings season that has been very strong, with 80 percent of companies beating on the top line and around 55 percent beating on the bottom line," noted Tony Roth, chief investment officer at Wilmington Trust.

Investors bid up several retailers that reported strong earnings Thursday. □



## Bezos makes his mark on Post with new Kindle app

RAVI SOMAIYA

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**WASHINGTON** - In recent months, The Washington Post has been worried about reducing cognitive overhead. The phrase, borrowed from its new owner, billionaire Amazon founder Jeffrey P. Bezos, refers to the number of decisions or actions readers must make before getting what they want.

The principle was a driving force behind Amazon's one-click buying system. And it is one of the guiding ideas for a new app being introduced Thursday that will deliver the Washington Post to some Amazon Kindle tablet owners for free. It is the first formal collaboration between the two companies since Bezos bought The Post for \$250 million last year.

The new app, with pre-loaded stories, pictures and even advertisements, was designed in close collaboration with Bezos, said Shailesh Prakash, The Post's chief technology officer.

"We talked to him constantly," Prakash said, describing feedback Bezos gave to developers. "He's our most active beta tester."

The app, which was designed to reduce the noise of the Web to something as streamlined as a print publication, will be automatically added to certain Kindle Fire tablets as part of a software update. It will feature two editions each day, at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m., times at which the company believes it will reach the most readers.

The app will be free for Kindle Fire owners for six months, and will then cost a dollar for the next six months. A version of the app will be available for Android and iOS operating systems next year, at \$3.99 a month.

Russell Grandinetti, a senior vice president at Amazon who oversees the Kindle, declined to specify the number of Kindle Fire users who would receive the new app but said that it was in the millions.

Post executives and technologists said in interviews Wednesday that the app represents the melding of the company's culture with that of Bezos. His ideas and preoccupations have quietly helped shape the newspaper, they said, and empowered its technologists.

"Through a lot of conversations with Jeff, we've sort of absorbed some of this stuff by osmosis," said Martin Baron, the paper's editor. "We now have an opportunity to ask him how things have worked at Amazon, for example. And he has a consumer obsession."

They added that Bezos had made it clear, through meetings with executives and through feedback on ideas and proposals, that The Post's broad strategy should shift toward growing its national and international audience - in direct contrast to its previous mission of narrowing its focus to local news.

The media company has now been given what Frederick J. Ryan Jr., its publisher, describes as runway.

"One of the great benefits of being in the position we're in, is that we can take decisions and make products that have a horizon of more than one quarter," Ryan said.

He, and other senior figures at the company, declined to specify what those other new ideas might be.

The app is one of a number of small moves toward broadening the paper's readership. However well executed, it is certainly not transformative, and the paper's executives admit they have a long way to go, and no secret plan stashed in a drawer. Amazon's own recent efforts to further its reach have faltered in recent months, and it recently reduced the price of its Fire phone to 99 cents amid reports of low demand. □

## Gap announces changes at the top

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gap Inc. cut its full-year profit outlook Thursday after reporting a sales shortfall in the fiscal third quarter and announced management changes at its Gap and Banana Republic brands. As part of the executive overhaul, Jeff Kirwan, 48, will become global president for the Gap brand in December following a brief transition period. Kirwan, who was head of Gap's China business, succeeds Stephen Sunnucks, who will leave the company on Dec. 19 after steering the growth of its namesake brand for nearly 50 coun-

ter. Kirwan, a veteran at Gap, had been its digital leader overseeing new innovations that cater to mobile-savvy shoppers. The changes seem to show how serious Peck is about turning around its brands that have seen sluggish sales.

"We'll start 2015 with a management team comprised of both established executives and the next generation of brand leaders ready for the next generation of customers," said Peck in a statement. He noted that the transition period allows the teams to deliver a "successful holiday season while gearing up for a future where great product, showcased

come as retailers are wrestling with a dramatic shift among consumers to online shopping. As a result, Gap and others are trying to meld their online business with physical stores as shoppers' purchases are influenced by the Web and mobile devices.

The management moves come as Gap separately released third-quarter fiscal results.

The San Francisco-based retailer earned \$351 million, or 80 cents per share, in the three-month period ended Nov. 1. That includes a tax-related benefit of 6 cents per share. That compares with \$337 million, or 72 cents per share, in the year-ago



This photo shows the sign on a GAP store in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh. Gap Inc. cut its full-year profit outlook Thursday after reporting a sales shortfall in the fiscal third quarter and announced management changes at its Gap and Banana Republic brands.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

tries for the past decade. Meanwhile, Andi Owen, 49, who heads Gap Outlet's division, will become global president for Banana Republic effective Jan. 5. She succeeds Jack Calhoun, who will leave the company on Feb. 1 after working with Owen during the transition. Calhoun led the brand for eight years.

No executive changes were announced at its Old Navy store division.

The moves were spearheaded by Art Peck as he takes on the role of CEO of Gap Inc. in February, succeeding Glenn Murphy who has been at the helm since 2007. Peck, a 10-year-

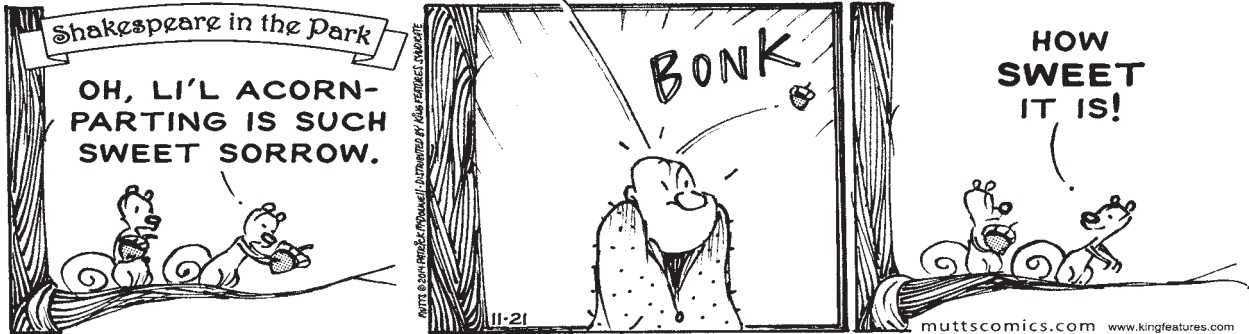
seamlessly across physical and digital experiences, consistently delights our customers." After several years of losing its way, Gap started a turnaround in early 2012 by stepping up its marketing and offering trendier merchandise. Under Murphy's stewardship, Gap has been expanding outside the U.S., and said earlier this year it wants to triple its sales in China in three years as it opens more stores there. But in recent months, the company's business, particularly the Gap brand, has seen sales slow down as some of the hot trends like brightly colored jeans have lost their fizz. The changes

period. Sales were virtually unchanged at \$3.97 billion. The results missed Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 79 cents per share and revenue of \$4.01 billion. Revenue at stores opened at least a year fell 2 percent for the quarter. By brand, Gap's key measure was down 5 percent while Banana Republic's sales were flat, and Old Navy was up 1 percent compared with the year-ago period.

The company said it now expects earnings per share for the year to be in the range of \$2.73 to \$2.78. □



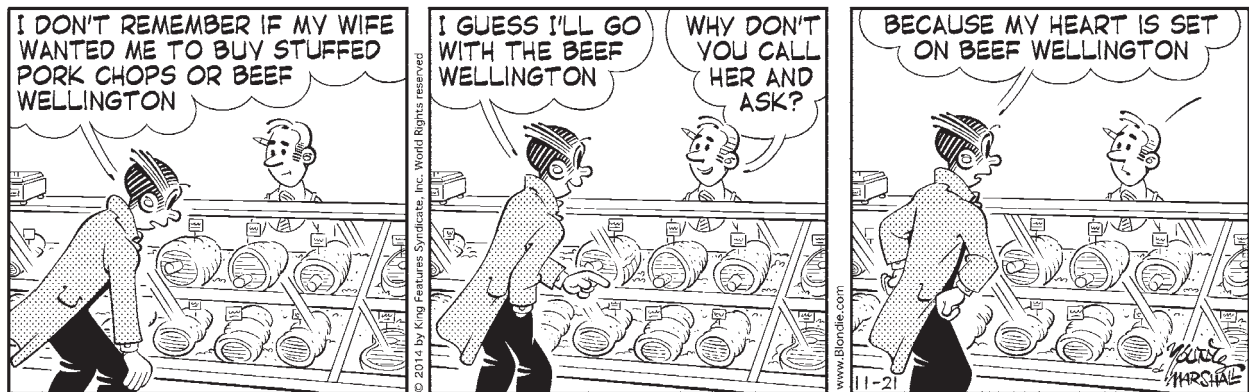
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



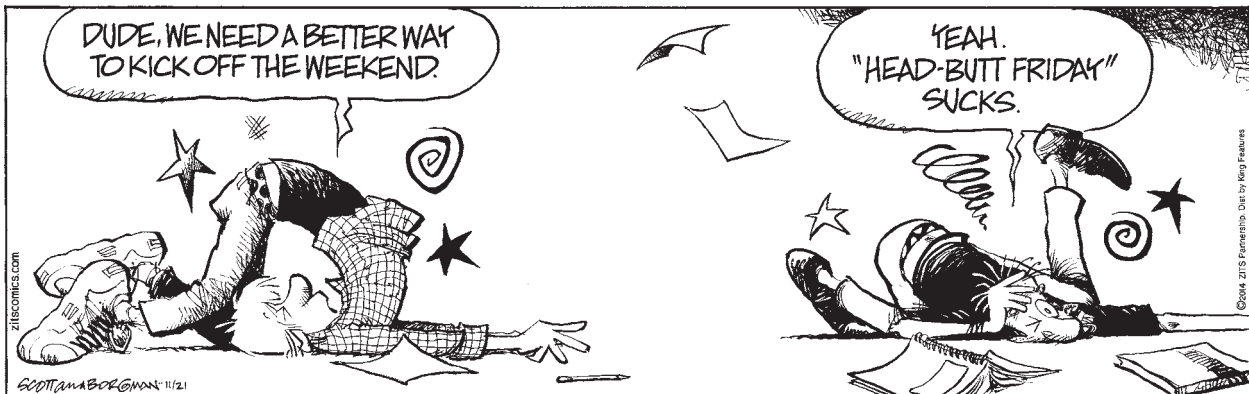
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	9				1		7	
1				7			9	6
				2				
	4	3	8					2
9					3	7	1	
					8			
7	2				4			8
	5		3				6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

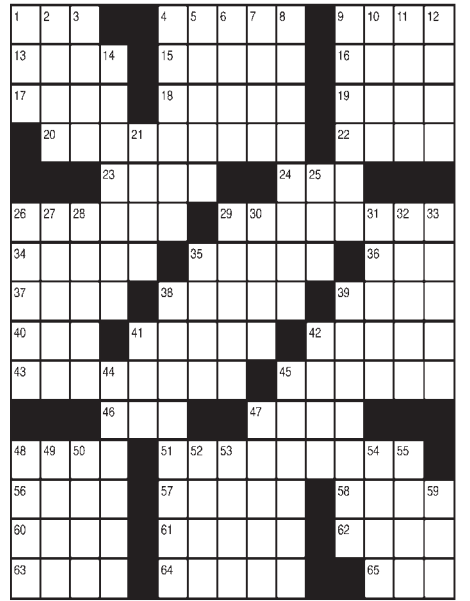
9	3	4	7	8	5	6	1	2
2	1	5	9	6	3	7	8	4
7	8	6	4	2	1	3	9	5
6	4	1	8	5	2	9	7	3
5	2	9	1	3	7	4	6	8
3	7	8	6	9	4	2	5	1
1	9	3	2	7	8	5	4	6
4	5	7	3	1	6	8	2	9
8	6	2	5	4	9	1	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/20

## ACROSS

- Rollaway bed
- Remove the lid from
- Ran fast
- Middle- ; neither old nor young
- Hunt illegally
- Apple's center
- Birch or beech
- High; tall
- Gigantic
- Depressed person's feeling deep inside
- "Take \_\_ leave it"
- NFL game officials
- "\_\_ a long way to Tipperary..."
- Bust
- Like traffic in the opposite direction
- Damp
- Pipe \_\_; unrealistic wish
- Scand. land
- Tallies up
- Fashion show participant
- "Jeremiah \_\_ bullfrog..."
- \_\_-through; transparent
- Remained optimistic
- Fabric for fine tablecloths
- Wizard
- Most impolite
- Afternoon hour
- Bring on board
- Bread in the Middle East
- Foes
- Laugh loudly
- Swerves off course
- Dines
- Hooting birds
- Clear the slate
- "Phooey!"
- Roy Rogers and \_\_ Evans



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/21/14

- Reigned
- Be nosy

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

PACT	GALES	CUSP
ABED	ADAGE	INTO
ILLS	LONGW	INDED
LEE	CORE	MEOWS
BJORN	RPM	
PARADE	SALADS	
AWAKE	TANGY	EMU
PATE	BELIE	SLAM
ARE	RESET	CHIRP
EDDIES	DOUBTS	
ELF	BASTE	
MAPLE	WRIT	RFK
EQUESTRIAN	DALE	
AUNT	AUDIT	ATOP
LATE	NEEDY	MEET

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11/21/14

- Lamebrain
- Additionally
- Expanded
- Chicken's mom
- Attract; draw
- Not refined
- Hosed off
- Steed
- Nudge
- Des Moines, \_\_
- Able to reach high shelves
- Lima's nation
- Ring out
- Waterproof canvas cover
- Celebrity
- Pig's home



## Soaring generic drug prices draw scrutiny from Senate

**MATTHEW PERRONE**  
**AP Health Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Some low-cost generic drugs that have helped restrain health care costs for decades are seeing unexpected price spikes of up to 8,000 percent, prompting a backlash from patients, pharmacists and now Washington lawmakers.

A Senate panel met Thursday to scrutinize the recent, unexpected trend among generic medicines, which usually cost 30 to 80 percent less than their branded counterparts.

Experts said there are multiple, often unrelated, forces behind the price hikes, including drug ingredient shortages, industry consolidation and production slowdowns due to manufacturing problems. But the lawmakers convening Thursday's hearing said the federal government needs to play a bigger role in restraining prices.

"If generic drug prices continue to rise then we are going to have people all over this country who are sick and need medicine and who simply will not be able to buy the medicine they need," Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging. Sanders is a political independent who usually votes with the liberal wing of the Democratic party.

Sanders introduced a bill that would require generic drugmakers to pay rebates to the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs when prices of their medications outpace inflation. Those payments are already mandatory for branded drugs, but have never applied to generics. Last month, Sanders and

House Rep. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Maryland, sent letters to the makers of 10 generic drugs that have seen price increases of over 300 percent or more in recent months. The price for one of those, the antibiotic doxycycline hyclate, rose more than 8,280 percent during a six-month period from an average of \$20 per bottle to \$1,849 per bottle.

The increases cited by the Senate subcommittee were calculated by the Healthcare Supply Chain Association using the average prices of the drugs and other price data.

The Generic Pharmaceutical Association said in a statement Thursday that the 10 drugs cited by lawmakers do not reflect the broader U.S. market, which includes 12,000 generic medications that have reduced drug costs by billions.

But pharmaceutical experts testifying Thursday said the price spikes reflect broader price increases for generics, which have traditionally fallen over time.

An analysis of 280 common generic drugs by Professor Stephen Schondelmeyer found that roughly a third recorded price increases in 2013. The University of Minnesota researcher said those numbers show that generic price increases are not limited to a few isolated cases.

"The markets are broken and we need to do something to fix it," he told the panel. "I think the government needs to step in and develop and monitor solutions."

Dr. Aaron Kesselheim of Harvard Medical School recommended several new government policies. □

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SAN NICOLAS	
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**November 21**

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24/7

## NOAA: Globe sets 5th hottest-month record of 2014

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Despite a bitter U.S. cold snap, the globe is rushing hell-bent toward its warmest year on record with last month setting the fifth monthly heat record of the year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Thursday that last month was the hottest October on record worldwide. The 58.43 degrees Fahrenheit (14.74 Celsius) beat out October 2003.

"It is becoming pretty clear that 2014 will end up as the warmest year on record," said Deke Arndt, climate monitoring chief for NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. "The remaining question is: How much?"

With only two months left in the year, 2014 has now surged ahead as the globe's warmest year so far, beating 2010 and 1998. So far this year, the world is averaging 58.62 degrees (14.78 degrees Celsius). If the last two months of the year are only average for the 21st century, it will still be the warmest year ever,



In this June 7, 2014 file photo, an Indian commuter splashes water from a pipe onto his face to get respite from the heat at the railway station in Allahabad, India.

Arndt said.

He said this year's heat is what scientists expect from man-made global warming. Scientists say the burning of coal, oil and gas traps heats, changing the climate.

This heat is being driven by incredible warmth in the world's oceans, Arndt said. The six warmest months on record for the world ocean temperatures have been the last six months. Be-

cause oceans are big and slow to change that makes it more likely the world will set a yearly temperature record, he said.

Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann said in an email he hopes the new data will put to rest "the silly ongoing claims that global warming has 'stopped' or that there is a 'hiatus' in global warming."

The world is approach-

ing the warmest year "in spite of the U.S. being pretty cold," Arndt said. That's because the United States is only 2 percent of the world's area and the part that's unusually cold is about 1.5 percent of the entire globe, he said.

It has been so hot in California that there is no way the year will end up not breaking the record for heat in the state, said NOAA climate scientist

Jake Crouch.

This year October, September, August, June and May — five of the last six months — set global monthly heat records. April 2014 was the second hottest on record. January, March and July were fourth. February was the 21st warmest.

NASA, Japan's weather agency and the University of Alabama Huntsville satellite measuring system — which climate skeptics usually use — also called it the hottest October on record.

The globe has broken 37 monthly high temperature records since January 1997, including five this year, according to NOAA. The last cold monthly temperature record broken was in December 1916.

Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe said the issue isn't so much about record highs, but trends over multiple decades. Seeing the 38th consecutive October that is warmer than the 20th century average "is climate change, and we are seeing it in spades." It is also the 356th month in a row the world's temperature has been warmer than the 20th century average. □

Associated Press

## U.N. climate fund falls short of \$10 billion target

**FRANK JORDANS**  
**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — A U.N. fund that will help poor countries tackle climate change has fallen short, for now, of its target of collecting \$10 billion, officials said Thursday.

About 30 countries meeting in Berlin pledged a total of \$9.3 billion toward the Green Climate Fund, according to Germany's development ministry, which co-hosted the con-

ference.

Last week, the U.S. pledged \$3 billion, the biggest amount so far. Britain announced Thursday it would give 720 million pounds (\$1.13 billion). Japan, Germany and France also have given \$1 billion or more.

Despite the shortfall, Germany's environment minister said she was satisfied by the result because some countries had indicated they would in-

crease their contribution in the coming months.

"I'm confident that we will reach the \$10 billion goal," Barbara Hendricks told reporters. "\$9.3 billion is already pretty close." Hendricks said Canada had made a surprise announcement that it would contribute, without saying yet how much.

Campaign group Oxfam described the amount collected so far as "only a bare minimum," noting

that rich countries such as Australia, Austria and Belgium hadn't offered anything yet.

Germany's development minister, Gerd Mueller, said the fund would start disbursing money toward the middle or end of next year.

"If humans want to avoid the fate of dinosaurs, then we need to act now, immediately," he said.

The fund is meant to help vulnerable developing

nations adjust to rising seas, warmer temperatures and more extreme weather. The money will also be used to help those countries develop clean energy sources that reduce the use of greenhouse gas-emitting coal, oil and gas.

Governments agreed at a 2009 summit in Copenhagen to seek a total of \$100 billion for measures to rein in climate change and dampen its impact. □



# Affleck praises wife, talks Maher spat before gala

**JOHN CARUCCI**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ben Affleck feels more comfortable speaking his mind than pretending to say what people want to hear. So before receiving his award at Wednesday's Save the Children Illumination Gala, he praised wife Jennifer Garner on her dedication to their family, and then shared insight into his recent spat with "Real Time" host Bill Maher over generalized remarks about Islam.

On an episode last month, Affleck took issue with Maher saying that Islam is "the only religion that acts like the Mafia."

"I was ultimately making a 'Sesame Street' argument. You don't judge a whole group of people based on the actions of a few," Affleck said of their heated debate.

The "Gone Girl" actor makes no bones about speaking his mind when it comes to hot-button issues.

"That's the environment around my dinner table when we talk politics," he

said. "I think I'd rather tell the truth and say what I believe in and make people unhappy than sort of pretend to think something else to accommodate them and try to be liked. That's just the way it goes and I don't think I'm any great champion of anything, but if they're going to put me on a show, I'm going to say what I think." As for Garner, the 42-year-old actor says he's grateful that his wife takes on the "lion's share" of responsibilities, dedicating her time to raising their three young children, while maintaining her career and charity work.

"She's been really smart about choosing her projects, doing 'Dallas Buyers Club' or 'Alexander and the Terrible Day,' smart, good movies that luckily have been successful. And then, they're not so time-consuming that she can't do this work and be there for our kids, which is the most important thing to her," Affleck said.

Garner spoke of how the couple divides their time for philanthropy.



Actor, filmmaker and Eastern Congo Initiative founder, Ben Affleck and wife actress Jennifer Garner attend the 2nd Annual Save the Children Illumination Gala at The Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014, in New York. Associated Press

"He works on Eastern Congo Initiative, and I work on the U.S. programs for Save

the Children, and within that, I really work on getting kids started on the right

foot from birth to 5, helping families get their kids up and ready for school and healthy," she said, adding: "We don't scatter our energy around."

Affleck co-founded the Eastern Congo Initiative in 2010 with Whitney Williams. The organization advocates the economic and social growth of the country through various programs. And while some of their missions focus on the well-being of children, Affleck says he doesn't make "value judgments" of where the problems are more dire.

"There are children in the United States, my wife has traveled, been in their homes in Kentucky, West Virginia, in the central valley of California who can't speak and they're 4 years old, who can't read until five years later than they should, who get no stimuli, who are really suffering, and we recognize it. In this country, with our wealth, with our, I think, decency and empathy, we should be taking care — at the very least educating all of our citizenry." □

# LL Cool J, Chaka Khan help honor Quincy Jones

**SANDY COHEN**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** —

Though Quincy Jones and LL Cool J never collaborated musically, the rapper-actor says Jones has played a major role in his life.

"You just really taught me to be a man," LL Cool J said Wednesday in a heartfelt introduction of his mentor and friend at Ebony magazine's annual Power 100 gala, where Jones was the guest of honor.

He received a lifetime achievement award at the event, which recognizes black Americans who are wielding considerable power, such as TV producer Shonda Rhimes, New York Times editor Dean Baquet, physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and Little League star Mo'Ne Davis.

LL Cool J said Jones is like a father to him and called him "the greatest producer in the history of music." Fittingly, the 81-year-old producer, composer and philanthropist was celebrated in song.

Chaka Khan also said Jones feels like family. He's "like an uncle, even a father," she said as she dedicated her performance of "Sweet Thing" to him.

James Ingram sang two hits that Jones produced: "Just Once" and "One Hundred Ways." Ingram also shared a duet with Patti Austin.

Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick got attendees dancing and singing with their original 1980s hits "The Show" and "La Di Da Di." Savion Glover performed a dance of his own.

Jones was recognized

for his philanthropic efforts and six-decade career. He's worked with the greats, from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson. He's scored feature films — 38 of them — and earned seven Academy Award nominations. He brought Oprah Winfrey and Will Smith to broader audiences.

"We're not, any of us, above being a groupie when it comes to Quincy Jones," Colin Powell said in a video about the honoree.

Jones said he was especially humbled by the Ebony award because he considered the magazine's founder a mentor.

"Ebony and Jet were part of the glue that bonded us together as a people," he said. "Black men and women in this country saw for the very first time that



Quincy Jones arrives at the 2014 Ebony Power 100 Gala at The Avalon Hollywood on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2014 in Los Angeles. Associated Press

they were not alone in a vast wilderness; that their loves, dreams and sorrows

were shared by people who looked just like them all over this country." □



# Mike Nichols, crafter of films, plays, dies at 83

**JAKE COYLE**

**AP Film Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A legend of film, theater and comedy in nearly equal measure, Mike Nichols was an unquestioned fixture of smart, urbane American culture across a relentlessly versatile, six-decade career that on stage or screen, reliably coursed with crackling intelligence.

Nichols won nine Tonys, an Oscar, several Emmys and a Grammy. He made up the lanky half of his groundbreaking comic duo with Elaine May. As a director, he made countless performers — from Dustin Hoffman to Melanie Griffith — into stars. To acclaim, he adapted Edward Albee, Neil Simon, Tony Kushner and Arthur Miller.

Nichols, who died Wednesday night in New York at 83, was a supreme orchestrator of material, talent and taste. In films like "The Graduate," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Carnal Knowledge," he left not only a firm stamp of author-



**Journalist Diane Sawyer and director Mike Nichols arrive at the AFI Lifetime Achievement Awards honoring Mike Nichols, at Sony Pictures Studios in this June 10, 2010 file photo taken in Culver City, Calif.**  
Associated Press

ship, but with a dry wit and a classical eye, he choreographed caustic social commentaries of couples drunk with bitterness, bored with regret and apprehensive in flight.

"I keep coming back to it, over and over: adultery

and cheating," Nichols, who was divorced three times before marrying ABC News' Diane Sawyer in 1988, said last year. "It's the most interesting problem in the theater. How else do you get Oedipus? That's the first cheating in the the-

ater."

Meryl Streep, who starred in Nichols' "Silkwood" and "Heartburn," recalled him as "a director who cried when he laughed, a friend without whom, well, we can't imagine our world." Steven Spielberg called Nichols' passing a "seismic loss."

"For me, The Graduate was life altering — both as an experience at the movies as well as a master class about how to stage a scene," said Spielberg. "Mike had a brilliant cinematic eye and uncanny hearing for keeping scenes ironic and real."

Born Michael Igor Peschowsky in Berlin, Nichols' Jewish family emigrated to the U.S. in 1939. He began as a stand-up and comedy would remain the bedrock to this sensibility and sense of timing. He and May developed their great improvisational rapport into a saucy, sophisticated stage show that took on sex, marriage, family and other subjects in a frank manner that titillated and startled audiences of the late 1950s and early '60s.

"People always thought we were making fun of other people when we were in fact making fun of ourselves," Nichols told The Associated Press in 1997. "We did teenagers in the back seat of the car and people committing adultery. Of

course, you're making fun of yourself. You're making jokes about yourself. Who can you better observe?"

His 1966 film directing debut, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," unforgettably captured the vicious yet sparkling and sly dialogue of Edward Albee's play, as a couple (Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor) torment each other over deep-seated guilt and resentment.

"Angels in America," the 2003 TV miniseries adapted from the stage sensation, blended rich pathos and whimsy in its portrait of people coping with AIDS and looking to the heavens for compassion they found lacking in Ronald Reagan's 1980s America. Similarly, Nichols' 2001 TV adaptation of the play "Wit" packed biting levity within the stark story of a college professor dying of ovarian cancer.

"I have never understood people dividing things into dramas and comedies," said Nichols, who won directing Emmys for both "Angels" and "Wit." "There are more laughs in 'Hamlet' than many Broadway comedies."

He was a wealthy, educated man who often mocked those just like him, never more memorably than in "The Graduate," which shot Hoffman to fame in the 1967 story of an earnest young man rebelling against his elders' expectations. Mixing farce and Oedipal drama, Nichols managed to capture a generation's discontent without ever mentioning Vietnam, civil rights or any other issues of the time. But young people laughed hard when a family friend advised Benjamin that the road to success was paved with "plastics."

Nichols won the best-director Oscar for "The Graduate," which co-starred Anne Bancroft as an aging temptress pursuing Hoffman. The film was radical for both its casting (Hoffman, then a little-known character actor, was far from the traditional leading man) and its hugely influential Simon and Garfunkel soundtrack. □

## Mike Love has book deal; memoir due out in 2016

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Mike Love, a founding member of the Beach Boys and lead singer on such hits as "Surfin' U.S.A." and "Little Deuce Coupe," has a book deal.

Love has an agreement with Blue Rider Press for "Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy." Blue Rider, an imprint of Penguin Random House, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the memoir is scheduled for a 2016 release. It will come out, appropriately, during the summer.

"I've had an incredible life with a lot of triumphs, my share of heartbreak and some pretty amazing experiences," Love said in a statement released through the publisher. "There are a lot of things I haven't shared before, and I'm looking forward to opening up about my life



**This June 15, 2012 file image released by Starpix shows Mike Love of The Beach Boys as the band performed as part of 2012 Summer Concert Series on "Good Morning America," in New York.**  
Associated Press

and my work in this book." According to Blue Rider, the 73-year-old Love will discuss his "complex" relationship with Brian Wilson, his cousin and the Beach Boys' leader during their peak years in the 1960s. Love and Wilson have

fought over songwriting credits and creative control of the group.

Love will be assisted on his book by James S. Hirsch, who has written biographies of boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and baseball great Willie Mays. □



# Obama In Winter



DAVID BROOKS  
© 2014 New York Times

They say failure can be a good teacher, but, so far, the Obama administration is opting out of the course. The post-midterm period has been one of the most bizarre of the Obama presidency. President Barack Obama has racked up some impressive foreign-policy accomplishments, but, domestically and politically, things are off the rails.

Usually presidents use midterm defeats as a chance to re-think and refocus. That's what Obama did four years ago. Voters like to feel the president is listening to them.

But Obama's done no public rethinking. In his post-election news conference, the president tried to reframe the defeat by saying the turnout was low, as if it was the Republicans' fault that the Democrats could only mobilize their core base. Throughout that conference, the president seemed to detach himself from his own party, as if the Democrats who lost their jobs because of him were a bunch of far-off victims of some ethereal malaise.

Usually presidents at the end of their terms get less partisan, not more. But with his implied veto threat of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, Obama seems intent on showing that Democrats, too, can put partisanship above science. Keystone XL has been studied to the point of exhaustion, and the evidence overwhelmingly suggests that it's a modest-but-good idea. The latest State Department study found that it would not significantly worsen the environment. The oil's going to come out anyway, and it's greener to transport it by pipeline than by train. The economic impact isn't huge, but at least there'd be a \$5.3 billion infrastructure project.

Usually presidents with a new congressional majority try to figure out if there is anything that the two branches can do together. The governing Republicans have a strong incentive to pass legislation. The obvious thing is to start out with the easiest things, if only to show that Washington can function on some elemental level.

But the White House has not privately engaged with Congress on the legislative areas where there could be agreement. Instead, the president has been superaggressive on the one topic sure to blow everything

up: the executive order to re-write the nation's immigration laws.

The president was in no rush to issue this order through 2014, when it might have been politically risky. He questioned whether had the constitutional authority to do this through most of his first term, when he said that an executive order of this sort would probably be illegal.

But now the president is in a rush and is convinced he has authority. I sympathize with what Obama is trying to do substantively, but the process of how it's being done is ruinous.

Republicans would rightly take it as a calculated insult and yet more political ineptitude. Everybody would go into warfare mode. We'll get two more years of dysfunction that will further arouse public disgust and anti-government fervor (making a Republican presidency more likely).

This move would also make it much less likely that we'll have immigration reform anytime soon. White House officials are often misinformed on what Republicans are privately discussing, so they don't understand that many in the Republican Party are trying to find a way to get immigration reform out of the way. This executive order would destroy their efforts.

The move would further destabilize the legitimacy of government. Redefining the legal status of 5 million or 6 million human beings is a big deal. This is the sort of change we have a legislative process for. To do something this seismic with the stroke of one man's pen is dangerous.

Instead of a nation of laws, we could slowly devolve into a nation of diktats, with each president relying on and revoking different measures on the basis of unilateral power - creating unstable swings from one presidency to the next. If Obama enacts this order on the transparently flimsy basis of "prosecutorial discretion," he's inviting future presidents to use similarly flimsy criteria. Talk about defining constitutional deviancy down.

I'm not sure why the Obama administration has been behaving so strangely since the midterms. Maybe various people in the White House are angry in defeat and want to show that they can be as obstructionist as anyone. Maybe, in moments of stress, they are only really sensitive to criticism from the left flank. Maybe it's Gruberism: the belief that everybody else is slightly dumber and less well-motivated than oneself and, therefore, politics is more about manipulation than conversation.

Whatever it is, it's been a long journey from the Iowa caucuses in early 2008 to the preemptive obstruction of today. I wonder if, post-presidency, Obama will look back and regret that he got sucked into the very emotional maelstrom he set out to destroy. □



## Partisanship Breaks the Government



CHARLES M. BLOW  
© 2014 New York Times

This could be a rather heated winter. All three branches of government are on course to collide over partisan politics, constitutional authority and scope of power, particularly as vested in the executive branch. President Barack Obama has wasted no time moving beyond the Democrats' midterm defeats. He is settling about ensuring his legacy. His advisers say he feels liberated by not having to worry about any more congressional elections. He has secured a historic climate change agreement with China that John Boehner called part of the president's "job-crushing policies" and his "crusade against affordable, reliable energy."

The president went further Saturday, signaling that he will soon announce "that the United States will contribute \$3 billion to a new international fund intended to help the world's poorest countries address the effects of climate change," according to The New York Times. Obama has also called on the Federal Communications Commission to adopt net-neutrality rules that Ted Cruz called "Obamacare for the Internet." But the tipping point will likely come when the president takes executive actions on immigration, which, according to reports, could protect up to 5 million unauthorized immigrants from deportation. Republicans

are beside themselves at the prospect.

Amnesty! Out-and-out lawlessness! Shredding the Constitution! No claim - and no recourse - is out of bounds, it seems.

Many conservatives, like Rush Limbaugh, are demanding another government shutdown to stop it. Others, like Charles Krauthammer, have suggested that Obama's actions on immigration might be "an impeachable offense."

The grown-ups on the right - to the degree such people exist - know full well that shutdowns and impeachment proceedings are suicidal, but such is the political blood lust on that end of the spectrum that one can't be sure that cooler heads will prevail over hot ones.

Short of those two nearly nuclear options, John Boehner is reportedly considering suing the president over his planned action on immigration.

This is what the GOP base wants: a fight. According to last week's report from the Pew Research Center, Republicans, by a margin of more than 2 to 1, want Republicans leaders to "stand up to Obama, even if less gets done in Washington," as if it were possible for this do-nothing Congress to do less.

Congressional Republicans have been sent to Washington with a mandate not so much to conduct business but rather to collect a bounty, to do as they promised and what their supporters expect: Stop Obama at any cost and at every turn, to erase his name or at least put an asterisk by it.

If the speaker should file such a suit, it could drag the Supreme Court into this partisan drama. But it seems the court isn't waiting for that. It has already thrust itself into the partisan fray by, to the surprise of many, taking up yet another challenge to the Affordable Care Act. This one, like the last, could prove fatal to the law.

It centers on the question of whether people who signed up through the federal ex-

changes are eligible for subsidies or if those subsidies are only available to people signing up through exchanges set up by states, something many Republican-led states refused to do.

Some have called this ambiguity little more than a typo in a voluminous bill. Linda Greenhouse, my Times colleague and expert interpreter of all things Supreme Court, called the decision to take the case "worse" than the court's ruling on Bush v. Gore, as well as "profoundly depressing," and suggested that the court is beginning to look evermore like "just a collection of politicians in robes."

But the typo defense is complicated by the comments of an architect of the law, Jonathan Gruber, a health economist. In 2012, he said, "if you're a state and you don't set up an exchange, that means your citizens don't get their tax credits." This suggested that the clause was no accident, or at least one he and others found fortuitous.

While these battles may offer some ephemeral partisan gain - mostly for Republicans - they will suppress support for all three branches of government and further diminish public faith in the efficacy of government as a whole.

According to a June poll by Gallup, "Americans' confidence in all three branches of the U.S. government has fallen, reaching record lows for the Supreme Court (30 percent) and Congress (7 percent), and a six-year low for the presidency (29 percent)." While the blood sport of these clashes is likely to enthrall pundits and policy wonks, I fear that it won't be good for the republic - particularly Democrats.

Liberal ideology depends on a productive federal government; conservatism rises when that government is crippled.

Republicans, in all their cynicism, are increasing their efforts to break the government.

Isn't America great? □



# College Football's Coaching Nun Preaches Positive Thinking

**PAT BORZI**

© 2014 New York Times

DULUTH, Minn. - The celebration after the College of St. Scholastica won its fourth consecutive conference football championship resembled an extended family gathering. Oblivious to the numbing cold, players, coaches, their families and students lingered on the

adds another layer of living our mission and living our values. It brings it full circle. I find it an honor that I get to do this, that I get to represent my religious community in this way."

Maurer, who is known as Sister Lisa, is one of 87 sisters from the Benedictine Order living in the monastery at St. Scholastica, a Division

a Catholic school in her hometown before entering the convent.

Trading one devotion for another meant giving up something she dearly loved.

"The one thing that was holding me back, seriously, was coaching, that special relationship you have with your student-athletes,"

and the clacking of shoulder pads offered too enticing a distraction. Maurer often went for walks around the field saying her rosary, or sat in the bleachers.

The program's founding coach, Greg Carlson, got to know her, asked her to lead prayers, and discovered she could talk sports as knowledgeably as any-

versity in Collegeville, Minnesota, where they played for John Gagliardi, who has the most coaching wins in college football.

Maurer invited Ramler to dinner and prayers with the sisters at the monastery. After several more conversations, the forward-thinking Ramler - a free spirit who rarely wears socks, even on the coldest days - invited Maurer to join his coaching staff. Maurer spent so much time watching practice that Ramler figured he might as well put her to work.

"When I'm looking for an assistant coach, I'm looking for people who are intelligent, hard-working and care about the kids," Ramler said. "She has all those qualities. It's all about that. "Anybody who talks to Sister Lisa more than half a minute knows how intelligent she is, and also knows that she's passionate, and she loves Saints football. To me, it was an absolute no-brainer."

Olson and Sister Lois Eckes, the prioress of the monastery, approved the unusual arrangement.

"I have to admit, I was surprised," Olson said. "I knew she had coached before. But in a very short period of time, I've learned Kurt is full of surprises."

Eckes, though, wondered how Maurer could balance work with her prayer life. Already an administrator in the Benedictine Health System, a supervisory position requiring frequent travel in the Midwest, Maurer is pursuing a master's degree in pastoral ministry at St. John's. Ramler told Maurer to come to practice when she could.

"We see it as a wonderful vocation that we didn't plan for," Eckes said. "She's making history. We're all making history."

Maurer never forgets her spiritual side. In a solemn church ceremony before the season, Maurer and Eckes gave each player a St. Benedict medal, which is said to protect them from harm. Most wear them under their pads or carry them in their equipment bag.



**Sister Lisa Maurer, a Catholic nun and the kicking coach for the College of St. Scholastica, talks with kicker Mike Theismann (9) during a game in Duluth, Minn. Maurer, a Benedictine nun living in the monastery at St. Scholastica, grew up around sports and coached several teams before joining the church.**

(Tim Gruber for The New York Times)

field, exchanging hugs and posing with the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference championship banner.

In the midst of it, Mike Lehmann, a beefy reserve offensive lineman, approached an assistant coach with a request. "Coach, my mom wants a picture," he said.

So Lehmann wrapped an arm around the diminutive coach in the dark blue winter jacket and matching fleece headband, who is beloved around this little Catholic school for a quick smile and inspiring manner - Sister Lisa Maurer, the Benedictine nun who coaches kickers and punters for the 10-0 Saints.

"They're good kids; they're awesome," she said. "It just

Ill college here on a bluff overlooking Lake Superior.

"A lot of people who aren't around the program say, how is a nun coaching you?" said Mike Theismann, a senior kicker. "She fits in seamlessly. It's not a big deal, for the players or the coaches."

Maurer, 44, is 5 feet 2 inches with blue eyes, a smattering of freckles and short brown hair. She grew up around sports. Her father, Gene, coached high school football in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota; as a child, she occasionally helped him line the field. She played softball at Southwest Minnesota State University, as a catcher. She coached basketball, volleyball and softball at

Maurer said. "The competition, the adrenaline, all that. I was like, oh my gosh, I'll never get that again if I enter the monastery or enter religious life."

Maurer came to St. Scholastica in 2007, the year before the college fielded its first football team. A women's college at its founding in 1912, St. Scholastica went coed in 1969 but struggled to attract male students. College officials added football to try to boost male enrollment. Even now, two-thirds of the 1,900 students on the main campus are women.

Maurer's fourth-floor room at the monastery overlooks the football practice field, and the sound of whistles

body on campus. Last season, the team awarded Maurer its annual Cor et Anima Award (Latin for heart and soul), acknowledging her involvement with the program. Carlson quickly turned the Saints into a powerhouse, winning or sharing three consecutive conference titles before retiring last January. Curiosity brought Maurer to the news conference for Carlson's successor, Kurt Ramler, a former assistant at Wagner College. Athletic director Don Olson introduced them. They had things in common. Their fathers died from Lou Gehrig's disease. Maurer's second cousin was a teammate of Ramler's at St. John's Uni-